MARVEL COMICS

$2.50 US
$3.40 CAN
13
OCT

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DOUBLE FEATURE

THUNDERSTRIKE™

HE'S BACK!

CAGE™

AND HE'S BROUGHT TROUBLE: THE BRUTAL, BONE-CRUSHING-

BISON!™

FOOM

DIRECT EDITION

7 59606 01392 0 01321

WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS ...

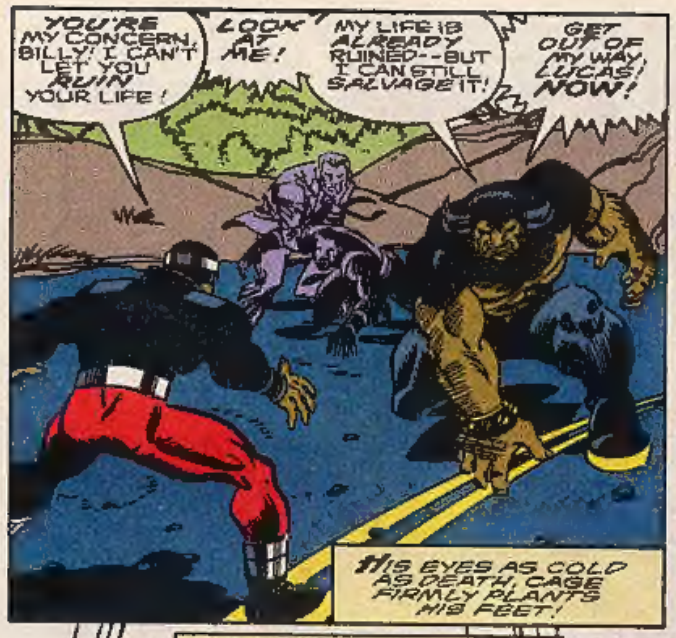
THUNDERSTRIKE!

RON FRENZ PICTURES, TOM DEFALCO PLOT & SCRIPT • AL MILGROM FINISHED ART • JANICE CHIANG LETTERING • ROSNOWITZ WITH KRAIGER + NEE COLORS • RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE...THUNDERSTRIKE "/CODE BLUE"™ Vol. 1, No. 13, October, 1994. (ISSN #1073-8789) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.40 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; $30.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THUNDERSTRIKE (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THUNDERSTRIKE, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (212) 696-0910. Printed in the U.S.A.

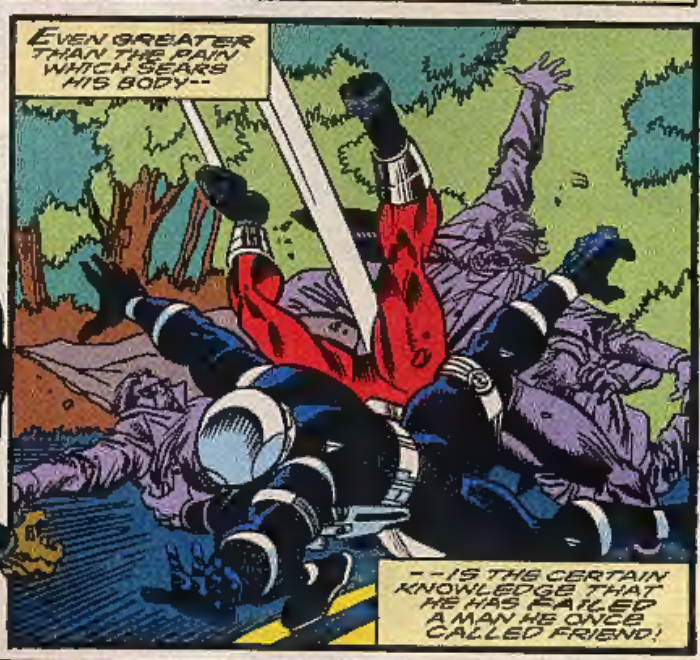
DON'T LET HIM GET ANY CLOSER!
SHOOT TO KILL!
NO! PLEASE... DON'T SHOOT!
SC 119-A
HE'S NOT AS TOUGH AS HE LOOKS! HE'S OBVIOUSLY AFRAID OF INJURY!
NOT QUITE, MISTER!
I WAS WORRIED THAT ONE OF YOU WOULD BE WOUNDED BY A RICOCHET!
I COULD BE SAVING YOUR LIVES BY DISARMING YOU!
EMPLOY THE HEAVY ARMAMENT!
AGENT #22, BREAK OUT MY MANCROID ARMOR!
I READ YOU, DEPAUL!
MOVE! MOVE!
PLEASE--!
YOU ARE ONLY ENDANGERING YOURSELVES BY RESISTING!
SURRENDER THE PACKAGE AND NO ONE GETS HURT!
YOU MUST BE INSANE! AN AGENT OF SHIELD WOULD RATHER DIE THAN FAIL HIS MISSION!
DON'T BE A JERK, MISTER! NOBODY HAS TO DIE! NOT WHILE I HAVE YOU FOR A HOSTAGE!

PUT HIM DOWN, BILLY!
IF HE'S INJURED, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
MAN AND BEAST!
I SAID "DROP HIM!"
AND LUKE CAGE DOESN'T LIKE TO REPEAT HIMSELF.
STAY BACK, LUCAS! PLEASE--! THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! -URKKK!-

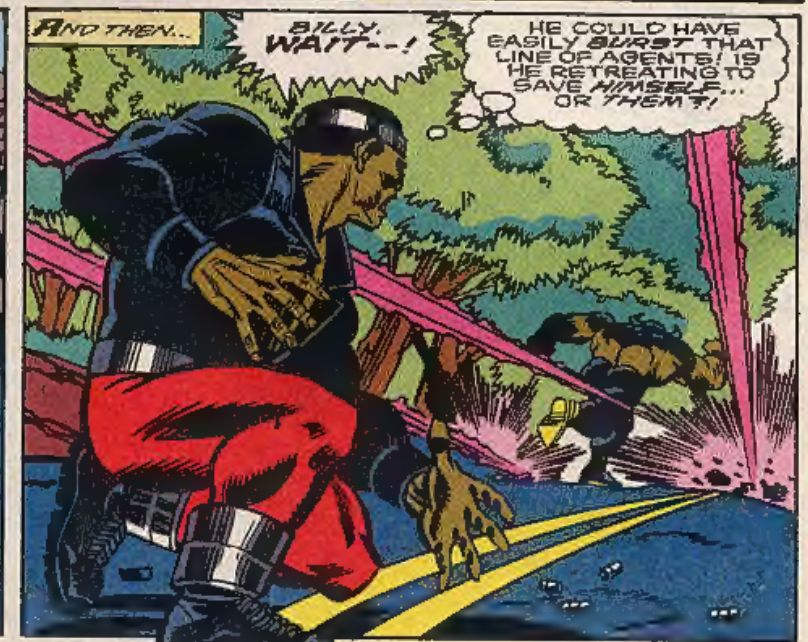

YOU'RE MY CONCERN, BILLY! I CAN'T LET YOU RUIN YOUR LIFE!
LOOK AT ME!
MY LIFE IS ALREADY RUINED--BUT I CAN STILL SALVAGE IT!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, LUCAS! NOW!
HIS EYES AS COLD AS DEATH, CAGE FIRMLY PLANTS HIS FEET!

WITH A SAVAGE, INHUMAN ROAR THE BISON SPRINGS FORWARD--!
SUWKKKS
THOUGH HE CAN EASILY WITHSTAND A ONE TON IMPACT WITHOUT SERIOUS INJURY, CAGE INSTANTLY REALIZES--

--THAT HE HAS SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED THE BISON!


EVEN GREATER THAN THE PAIN WHICH SEARS HIS BODY--
--IS THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS FAILED A MAN HE ONCE CALLED FRIEND!

BUT THEN, EVEN AS BISON TURNS BACK TOWARD HIS ARMORED PRIZE...
FREEZE!
YOU'LL NEVER GET PAST US NOW!
FOR AN INSTANT, THE BISON HESITATES...


AND THEN...
BILLY, WAIT--!
HE COULD HAVE EASILY BURST THAT LINE OF AGENTS! IS HE RETREATING TO SAVE HIMSELF... OR THEM?!

EVEN BEFORE CAGE CAN GIVE CHASE, A COMMANDING VOICE SUDDENLY RINGS OUT...

NOT SO FAST, MISTER! YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE! NOT UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN THOROUGHLY DEBRIEFED!

WE MIGHT HAVE CAPTURED THAT CREATURE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR BLASTED INTERFERENCE!

HE'S A MAN... NOT SOME WILD BEAST!

HANDS OFF, G-MAN! I'M OUTTA HERE...AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

ON THE CONTRARY... WE CAN HOLD YOU FOR AS LONG AS WE WANT!

TRY IT, PAL! IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I'M STILL CONNECTED TO THE CHICAGO SPECTATOR.

I'M SURE THEY'D BE REAL CURIOUS WHY A SHIELD CONVOY IS SKULKING AROUND THE BACKROADS OF JERSEY!

FOR A FULL MINUTE, SPECIAL AGENT DEPAUL SILENTLY WEIGHS CAGE'S THREAT...AND THEN, HE LAUGHS...A LAUGH AS COLD AS IT IS HUMORLESS!

ALL RIGHT! GO! GET OUT OF HERE!

I WARN YOU, CAGE... STAY OUT OF MY FACE!

TRUST ME... I'VE GOT BETTER PLACES TO BE!

OUR MISSION HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN COMPROMISED. SHOULD WE ABORT?

THAT IS NOT AN OPTION.

WE WILL PROCEED AS ORDERED.

WHAT ABOUT CAGE?

"DON'T WORRY, AGENT ZZ...

"... I'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO NEUTRALIZE HIM!"

A FEW HOURS LATER IN THE MANHATTAN LOFT WHICH IS SHARED BY ERIC MASTERSON AND SAMANTHA JOYCE.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW DIGS, LEAH!

I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE!

I HAVE NO DOUBT SAMANTHA!

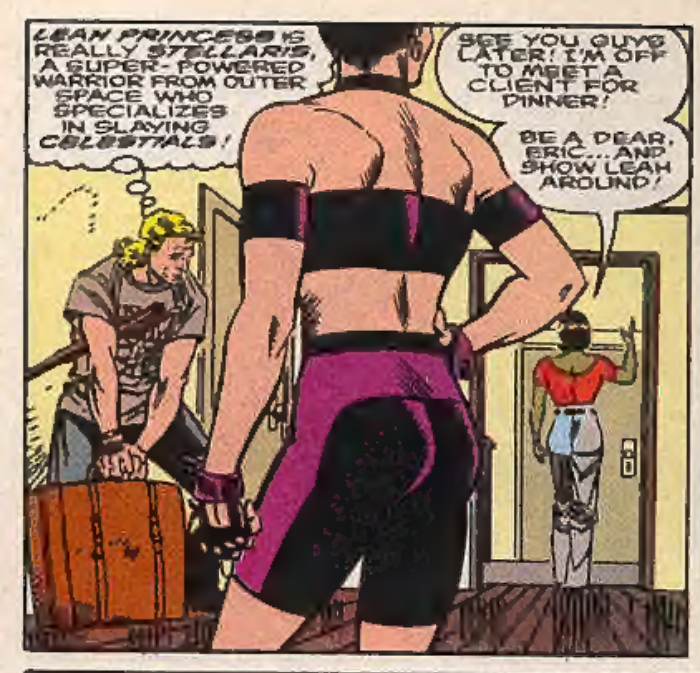
CALL ME SAM...ONLY MY MOTHER USES SAMANTHA!

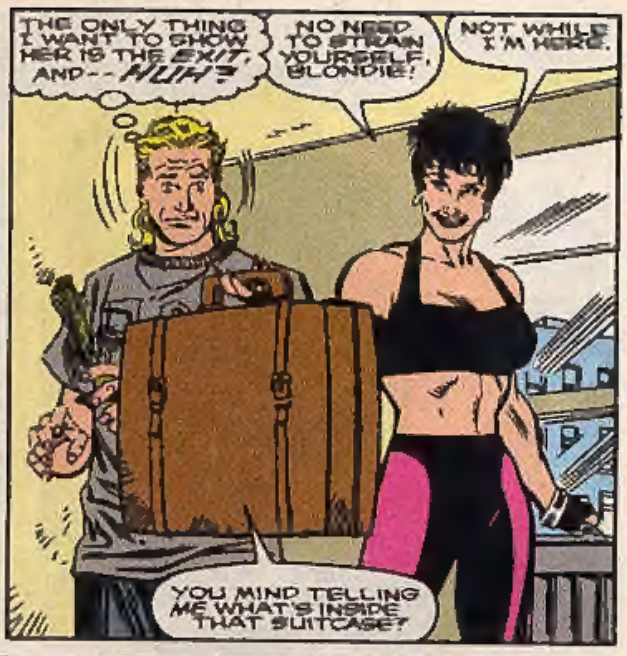
YOU OKAY WITH LEAH'S BAG, ERIC?

JUST...UH... FINE!

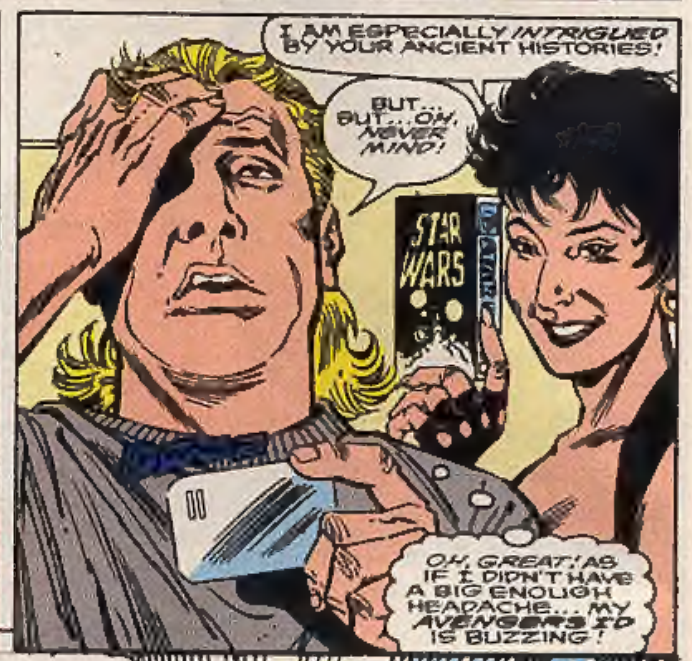
WHAT DOES SHE HAVE IN HERE-- ROCKS?!

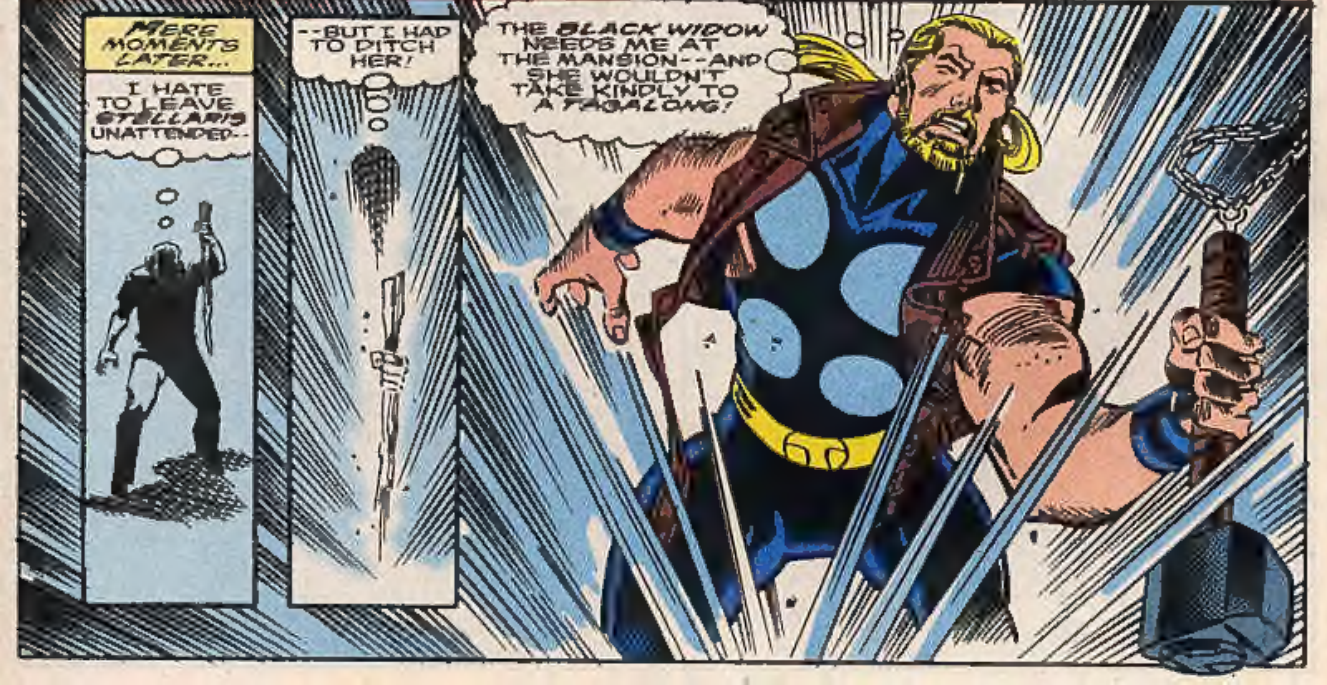
NOO-BOY! THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO ME! SAM ADVERTISES FOR A THIRD ROOMMATE TO SHARE EXPENSES--AND WE END UP WITH ONE OF MY OLD SPARRING PARTNERS!


LEAH PRINCESS IS REALLY STELLARIS, A SUPER-POWERED WARRIOR FROM OUTER SPACE WHO SPECIALIZES IN SLAYING CELESTIALS!
SEE YOU GUYS LATER! I'M OFF TO MEET A CLIENT FOR DINNER!
BE A DEAR, ERIC...AND SHOW LEAH AROUND!


THE ONLY THING I WANT TO SHOW HER IS THE EXIT, AND--NUH?
NO NEED TO STRAIN YOURSELF, BLONDIE!
NOT WHILE I'M HERE.
YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S INSIDE THAT SUITCASE?

BOOKS, COMICS AND VIDEOS--THE ESSENTIALS FOR A TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR PRIMITIVE CULTURE!
B-BUT THESE ARE ALL SCIENCE FICTION!
I HAD TO START SOMEWHERE!

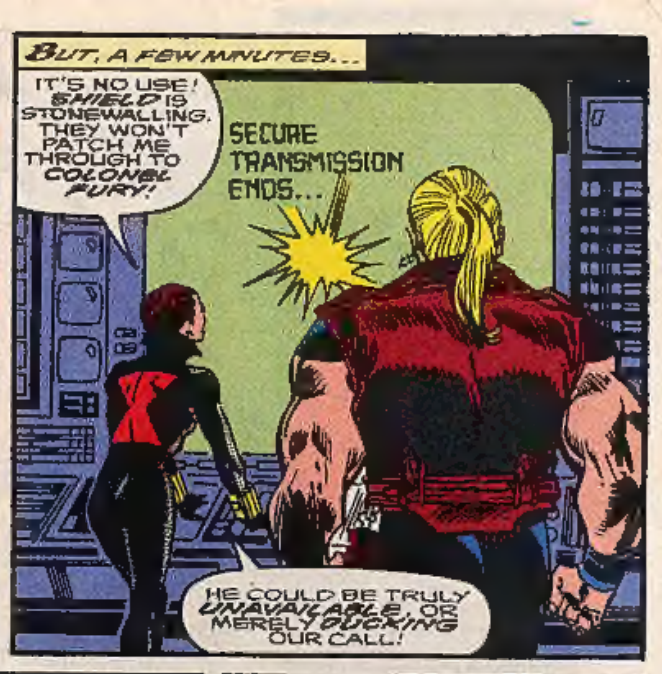

I AM ESPECIALLY INTRIGUED BY YOUR ANCIENT HISTORIES!
BUT...BUT...OH, NEVER MIND!
STAR WARS
OH, GREAT! AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE A BIG ENOUGH HEADACHE... MY AVENGERS I.D. IS BUZZING!


MERE MOMENTS LATER...
I HATE TO LEAVE STELLARIS UNATTENDED--
--BUT I HAD TO DITCH HER!
THE BLACK WIDOW NEEDS ME AT THE MANSION--AND SHE WOULDN'T TAKE KINDLY TO A TAGALONG!

AND, EVEN AS ERIC IS PULLED SKYWARD BY HIS ENCHANTED MACE...
MY LIFE
GEM
HEY, BUDDY! YOU KNOW WHERE A GUY CAN CATCH A GOOD WESTERN IN THIS TOWN?
CAGE... IS THAT REALLY YOU?!
IT'S WAY TOOOO LONG, AMIGO!
NICE FASHION STATEMENT--A LITTLE RETRO BUT CERTAINLY YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR JAZZY LEATHER LOOK?
IT GOT SHREDDED WHILE I WAS HANGING WITH SPIDER-MAN A FEW WEEKS BACK!*
SPEAKING OF NEW LOOKS, I BARELY RECOGNIZED THE OLD GEM THEATER!
AIN'T IT A KICK?
*SEE SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #6.--READ 'EM ALL RALF!
BUSINESS HAS BEEN BOOMING EVER SINCE THE CITY STARTED UPGRADING TIMES SQUARE!
WE'RE NOW A RECOGNIZED ART HOUSE...COMPLETE WITH SATURDAY MATINEES, WHICH INCLUDE A CARTOON AND MOVIE SERIAL, FOR THE KIDDIES!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
IT IS! ENOUGH ABOUT ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK IN TOWN?
I'M HERE TO TRACK DOWN A FRIEND FROM THE OLD 'HOOD!
MIND IF I USE YOUR PHONE?
MI CASA ES SU CASA!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN AVENGERS MANSION...
TEA FOR YOUR GUESTS, MADAM WIDOW... AND A DIET SODA FOR MASTER THUNDERSTRIKE!
THANK YOU, JARVIS! THAT WILL BE ALL!
ADDING ONLY A WEDGE OF LEMON TO HIS TEA, SPECIAL AGENT DEPAUL REMAINS SILENT UNTIL THE AVENGERS' FAITHFUL BUTLER HAS LEFT THE ROOM. AND THEN...
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO THIS IMPROMPTU MEETING.
AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY HEARD, THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS ARE DETERMINED TO DOWNSIZE SHIELD... FORCING US TO CUT STAFF... AND TO OCCASIONALLY SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES!
THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE HERE... BUT NOT YOUR INTEREST IN LUKE CAGE!
AS WE HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED, A SHIELD CONVOY, CARRYING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, WAS ATTACKED EARLIER TODAY...
SINCE CAGE WAS OBSERVED TO KNOW THE ASSAILANT, WE WANT HIM QUESTIONED.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LOCATE HIM?
THANKS TO SPECIAL AGENT DEPAUL'S QUICK THINKING, THIS HOMING DEVICE SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO HIM!
EYES ONLY
OPERATION SINKHOLE
OPERATION SINKHOLE?!
DID SHE DELIBERATELY ALLOW ME TO SEE THAT FILE FOLDER, OR--?
WE'LL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS WE SECURE CAGE!
I KNEW SHIELD COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON THE AVENGERS!

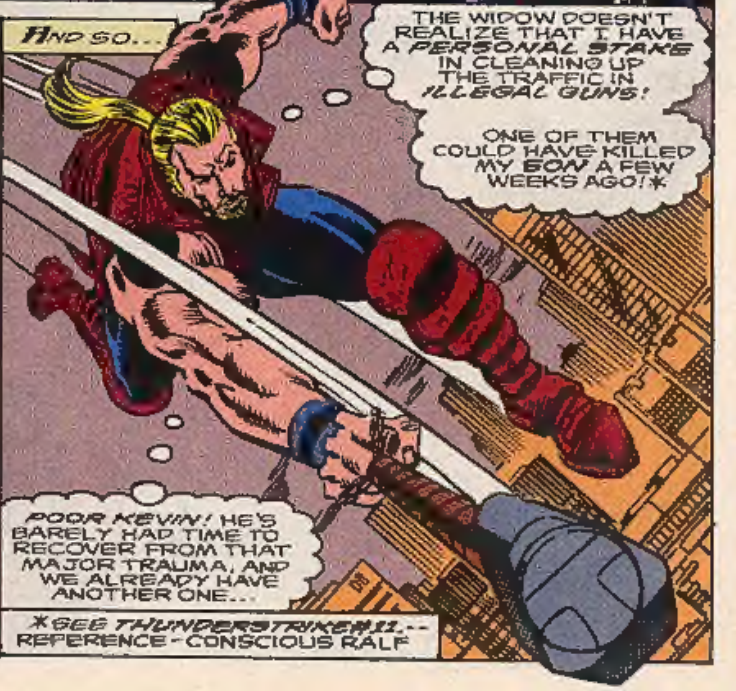
I DON'T TRUST THAT SMARMY CREEP AS FAR AS I CAN THROW HIM!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO REPHRASE THAT LAST STATEMENT, 'STRIKE...CONSIDERING HOW STRONG YOU ARE.
HOWEVER, I AGREE WITH YOU. THERE'S NO WAY I'M BUYING HIS STORY ABOUT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION!


BUT, A FEW MINUTES...
IT'S NO USE! SHIELD IS STONEWALLING. THEY WON'T PATCH ME THROUGH TO COLONEL FURY!
SECURE TRANSMISSION ENDS...
HE COULD BE TRULY UNAVAILABLE, OR MERELY DUCKING OUR CALL!

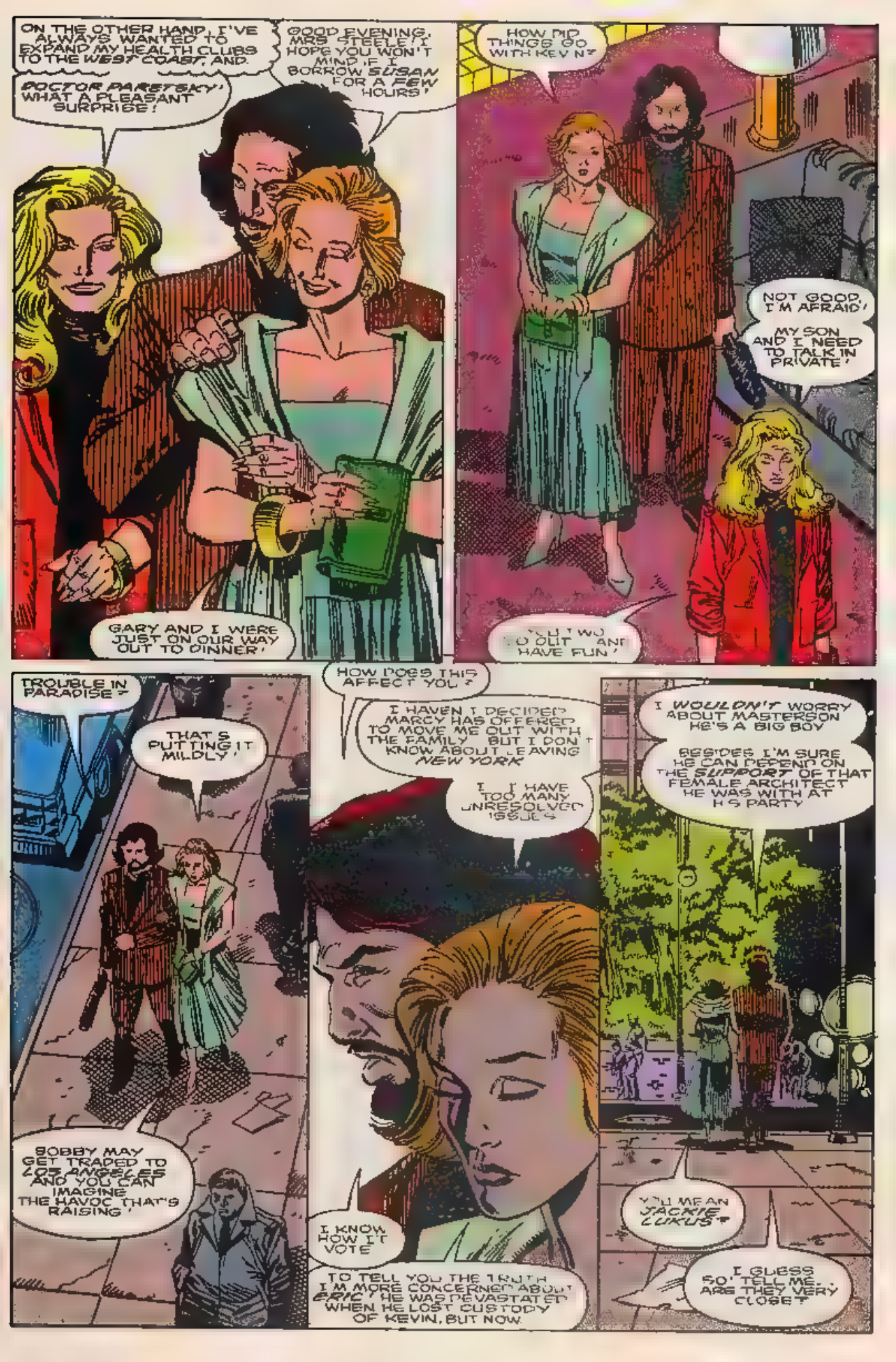
EVEN WITH THEIR RECENT BUDGET CUTS, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHIELD DOESN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO APPREHEND A MAN LIKE LUKE CAGE!
DePAUL IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR A FALL GUY... A PATSY!
YEAH... BUT... WHY CHOOSE ME?!

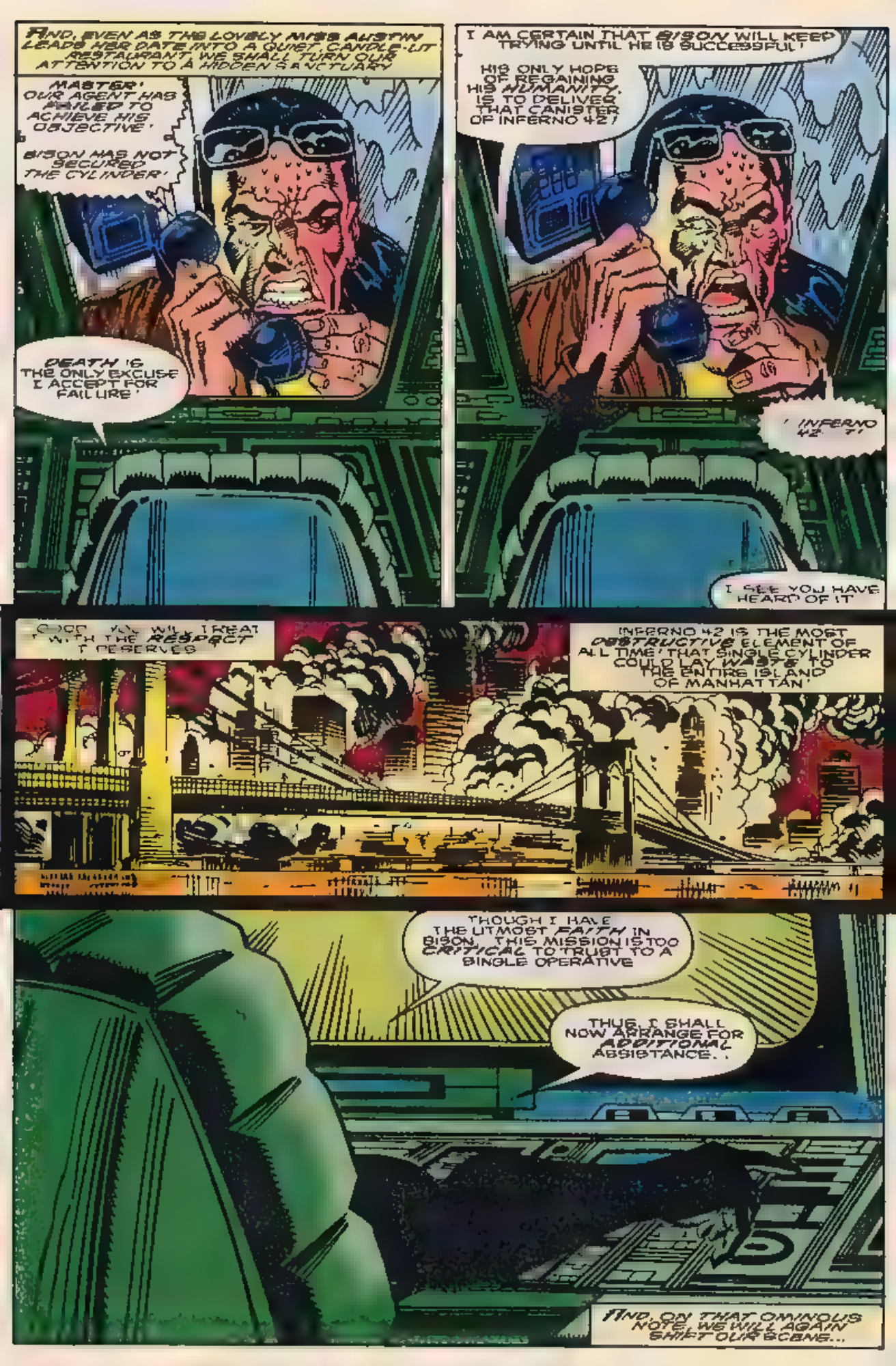
OKAY...
DUMB QUESTION!

OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS FOR YOU TO FIND CAGE... WHILE I KEEP NOSING AROUND!
BY THE WAY, I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING UP YOUR RECENT REQUEST TO HELP THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TRACK DOWN ANY KNOWN GUN RUNNERS!
THANKS! I APPRECIATE IT!


AND SO...
THE WIDOW DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN CLEANING UP THE TRAFFIC IN ILLEGAL GUNS!
ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE KILLED MY SON A FEW WEEKS AGO!*
POOR KEVIN! HE'S BARELY HAD TIME TO RECOVER FROM THAT MAJOR TRAUMA, AND WE ALREADY HAVE ANOTHER ONE...
*SEE THUNDERSTRIKE #11.-- REFERENCE - CONSCIOUS RALF

MEANWHILE
IT'S NOT FAIR!
I DON'T WANT TO MOVE!
I CAN'T LIVE IN CALIFORNIA!
THOUGH HIS PARENTS HAVE BEEN DIVORCED FOR MANY YEARS
KEVIN ALWAYS HARBORED A SECRET HOPE THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY GET BACK TOGETHER
HIS HOPE WAS DIMMED - BUT NOT COMPLETELY BY THE SHOCK WHEN HIS MOTHER MARRIED BOBBY STEELE, THE FORMER STAR QUARTERBACK OF THE NEW YORK SMASHERS
TRUST ME KEVIN I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE LOS ANGELES!
I AM A TO THE REALM AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR US ALL
THINK ABOUT IT, KID! WE'LL TALK LATER!
YEAH SURE BUT MY OPINION WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
HE'S TAKING IT PRETTY HARD
DO YOU BLAME HIM?
HE HATES THE THOUGHT OF BEING SEPARATED FROM HIS FATHER!
FUNNY THAT'S THE ONLY PART I DO LIKE!
BOBBY HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL?
IT WAS A JOKE MARCY ..
A JOKE
FOOTBALL? NO THAT ISN'T EVEN AN OPTION
I LOVE THIS GAME IT'S MY LIFE
I'M TALKING ABOUT UPROOTING EVERYBODY BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE I CAN'T STOP THE TEAM FROM TRADING ME
YOU COULD ALWAYS RETIRE
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE MINE

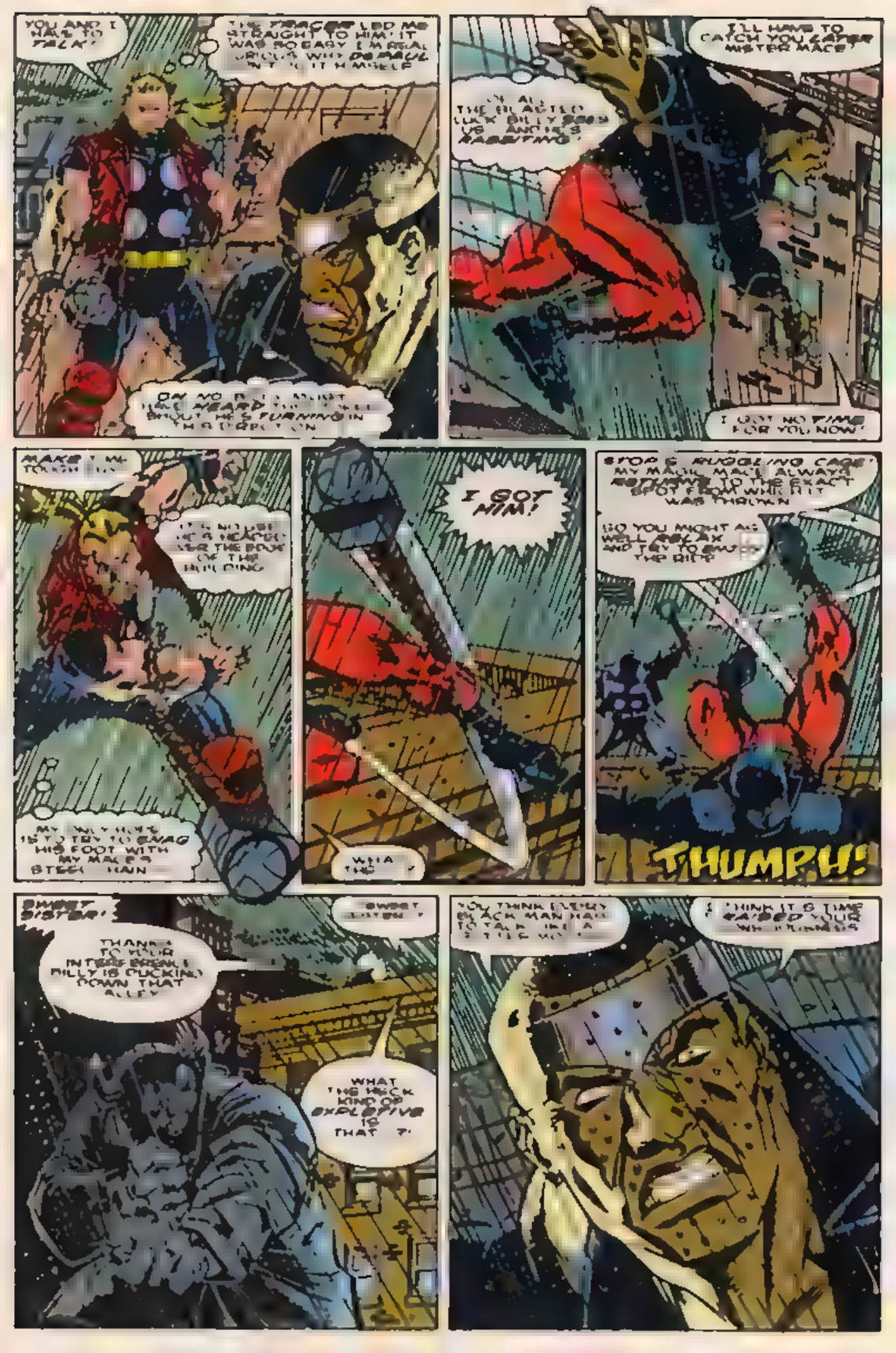

ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO EXPAND MY HEALTH CLUBS TO THE WEST COAST, AND.
GOOD EVENING, MRS. STEELE! I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I BORROW SUSAN FOR A FEW HOURS!
DOCTOR PARETSKY! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
GARY AND I WERE JUST ON OUR WAY OUT TO DINNER!
HOW DID THINGS GO WITH KEVIN?
NOT GOOD, I'M AFRAID!
MY SON AND I NEED TO TALK IN PRIVATE!
YOU TWO GO OUT AND HAVE FUN!
TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY!
BOBBY MAY GET TRADED TO LOS ANGELES AND YOU CAN IMAGINE THE HAVOC THAT'S RAISING!
HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED. MARCY HAS OFFERED TO MOVE ME OUT WITH THE FAMILY. BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT LEAVING NEW YORK.
I... I HAVE TOO MANY UNRESOLVED ISSUES.
I KNOW HOW IT VOTE
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ERIC! HE WAS DEVASTATED WHEN HE LOST CUSTODY OF KEVIN, BUT NOW.
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT MASTERSON. HE'S A BIG BOY.
BESIDES, I'M SURE HE CAN DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT OF THAT FEMALE ARCHITECT HE WAS WITH AT HIS PARTY.
YOU MEAN JACKIE LUKUS?
I GUESS SO. TELL ME... ARE THEY VERY CLOSE?


AND, EVEN AS THE LOVELY MISS AUSTIN LEADS HER DATE INTO A QUIET CANDLE-LIT RESTAURANT, WE SHALL TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A HIDDEN SANCTUARY
MASTER! OUR AGENT HAS FAILED TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVE!
BISON HAS NOT SECURED THE CYLINDER!
DEATH IS THE ONLY EXCUSE I ACCEPT FOR FAILURE!
I AM CERTAIN THAT BISON WILL KEEP TRYING UNTIL HE IS SUCCESSFUL!
HIS ONLY HOPE OF REGAINING HIS HUMANITY, IS TO DELIVER THAT CANISTER OF INFERNO 42!
'INFERNO 42'?!
I SEE YOU HAVE HEARD OF IT
GOOD. YOU WILL TREAT WITH THE RESPECT I DESERVE
INFERNO 42 IS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENT OF ALL TIME! THAT SINGLE CYLINDER COULD LAY WASTE TO THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN!
THOUGH I HAVE THE UTMOST FAITH IN BISON, THIS MISSION IS TOO CRITICAL TO TRUST TO A SINGLE OPERATIVE
THUS, I SHALL NOW ARRANGE FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE...
AND, ON THAT OMINOUS NOTE, WE WILL AGAIN SHIFT OUR SCENE...

17

IT'S ONLY!
I FIGURED HE COULDN'T COME HOME WITHOUT AT LEAST LOOKING IN ON SMAAAAR!!
I'D BETTER SLIP OUT OF MY RAINCOAT AND PREPARE FOR ACTION!

THIS IS IT! ONE LEAD IS ALL I'LL GET AND IT HAS TO BE RIGHT ON TARGET!
I MAY HAVE THE MAN'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART, BUT HE'LL NEVER ACCEPT MY HELP UNLESS I CATCH HIM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE AND
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH CAGE!


YOU AND I HAVE TO TALK!
I'LL HAVE TO CATCH YOU LATER MISTER MACE!
I GOT NO TIME FOR YOU NOW!
I GOT HIM!
WHA THE ...
THUMPH!
SWEET SISTER!
THANKS TO YOUR INTERFERENCE, BILLY IS FUCKING DOWN THAT ALLEY
WHAT THE HECK KIND OF EXPLOSIVE IS THAT ?!
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU PAYED YOUR WHO FUNDER

WHEW! NASTY JOLT. BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE... AND IT WAS FOR CAGE!

YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THIS DANCE... OR SWITCH TO CONVERSATION MODE?

A CONVERSATION WOULD BE NICE.

SAME GOES FOR STANDING!

YOU MIND HELPING ME UP?

THERE! YOU MADE OUT BETTER THAN THE STREET!

NOW... WHO'S THIS BILLY CHARACTER YOU MENTIONED?

HE'S BISON!

"BILLY BISON?" SHEESH. THUNDERSTRIKE SOUNDS BETTER ALL THE TIME!

ACTUALLY, HIS NAME IS BILLY KITSON. HE'S AN OLD FRIEND!

"TALK ABOUT A MAN ON THE FAST TRACK TO FAME AND FORTUNE, BILLY USED TO BE THE PRIDE OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.

"HE HAD IT ALL - TALENT, LOOKS AND THE LOVE OF A GOOD WOMAN BY THE NAME OF SHAMARI ABBERY!"

"HE GLIDED THROUGH COLLEGE ON A FULL SCHOLARSHIP, WITH ALL THE RIGHT PERKS, AND WAS TAGGED AS AN EARLY PICK IN THE PRO DRAFT!"

"BUT, THAT'S WHEN HIS LIFE TURNED SOUR!"

"THE ACCIDENT WAS AS POINTLESS AS IT WAS TRAGIC."

"THE GAME WAS ALREADY WON."

"BILLY WAS RUNNING UP THE SCORE TO IMPROVE HIS STATS WHEN AN OPPOSING FORWARD TRIPPED UNINTENTIONALLY."

"BILLY'S LEG NEVER QUITE HEALED PROPERLY."

"HIS PRO PROSPECTS VANISHED LIKE A BAD DREAM

"AND, EVENTUALLY... SO DID ME!"

HE RECENTLY RESURFACED AS THE BISON, AND I'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM EVER SINCE!

WHAT'S HIS INTEREST IN OLD SHIELD FILES?

I CAN ONLY ASSUME IT'S SOME KIND OF PAYOFF!

SILENCE SMOLDERS IN THE COLD RAIN AS BATIC MASTERSON STARES LONG AND HARD AT THE MAN BEFORE HIM AND THEN
THANKS FOR LEVELING WITH ME CAGE
AND I'M SORRY I LOST KITSON FOR YOU
YOU'RE FOR REAL, AREN'T YOU, MISTER MACE?
I TRY!
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT A CERTAIN AGENT OF SHIELD IS BLOWING SMOKE UP BOTH OUR BUTTS!
I'M GOING TO CHECK IN WITH THE BLACK WIDOW!
AND SO
ACCORDING TO MY SOURCES, SPECIAL AGENT DEFALL IS ALREADY A VICTIM OF THE SHIELD BUDGET WARS
I HEAR HE MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT A PROJECT SHIELD CALLED A QUICK GLIMPSE OF IT IN THE OTHER AGENT'S BRIEFCASE
WILL DO! RETURN TO THE MANSION! I MAY HAVE A POSSIBLE LEAD FOR YOU AND CAGE!
AND STRIKE GOOD WORK AVENGER!
A COMPLIMENT FROM THE WIDOW?
WOW
C'MON CAGE WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
UH-UH! LISTEN, MAN IF WE'RE GONNA HANG OUT TOGETHER THERE'S A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW
I STILL EAT RED MEAT I AVOID MUSICALS AND I LEAVE FLYING TO THE AIRLINES!
WHEN I WANT TO GET AROUND THIS TOWN, I MERELY RAISE MY ARM, AND SHOUT...
...TAXI!

SOMETIME LATER, AFTER A QUICK STOP AT AVENGERS MANSION, ERIC AND CAGE TAKE THEIR SECOND CAB RIDE OF THE DAY, AND THEN,

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THIS DESERTED OLD BARBER SHOP USED TO BE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO SHIELD'S NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

ACCORDING TO THE WIDOW, THIS GIZMO SHOULD GET US PAST THEIR SECURITY LOCKS!

BINGO... WE'RE IN!

THIS IS SO WEIRD! I HALF EXPECT TO SEE NAPOLEON SOLO JUMP OUT OF THE SHADOWS

IS FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION THAT... I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAUGH AT GET SMART, AGAIN

I GUESS THOSE ARE THE CHAIRS THE WIDOW TOLD US ABOUT!

AND, EVEN AS THE TWO ADVENTURERS TAKE THEIR SEATS...

YOU WANT ME TO WAIT, MISS?

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, DRIVER.

I HEARD THAT CAGE IS LOOKING FOR BILLY, AND I'M PRAYING HE'LL LEAD ME TO HIM!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE...

WAHOO! YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!

I WONDER WHAT A SETUP LIKE THIS COSTS!

I DOUBT EITHER ONE OF US CAN COUNT THAT HIGH!

CAREFUL WHERE YOU WALK!

MY MACE WILL PROVIDE A LITTLE LIGHT UNTIL WE CAN FIND A SWITCH

LOOK AT ALL THE DEBRIS! THIS PLACE MUST HAVE TAKEN A MAJOR HIT!

YEAH, THE WIDOW SAID AN OLD ENEMY RECENTLY BOMBED IT!

REALLY--?

I WAS PROBABLY IN CHICAGO AT THE TIME. BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT IT!

IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED WHILE TOM AND ROSANNE WERE BREAKING UP SO THE PAPERS COULDN'T GIVE IT MUCH PLAY!

JUST THEN, MANY FLOORS BELOW.

SUB LEVEL 3

SC 119-A

DEPAUL!

WE HAVE TROUBLE.

OUR INTERNAL HEAT AND MOTION SENSORS HAVE CONFIRMED AVG BOGEYS

WE CANNOT ALLOW THE CYLINDER TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS!

THE FATE OF THE FREE WORLD MAY SOMEDAY DEPEND UPON IT!

YOUR ORDERS ARE TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT SINKHOLE, AGENT H22!

KEEP THE SCHEDULE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

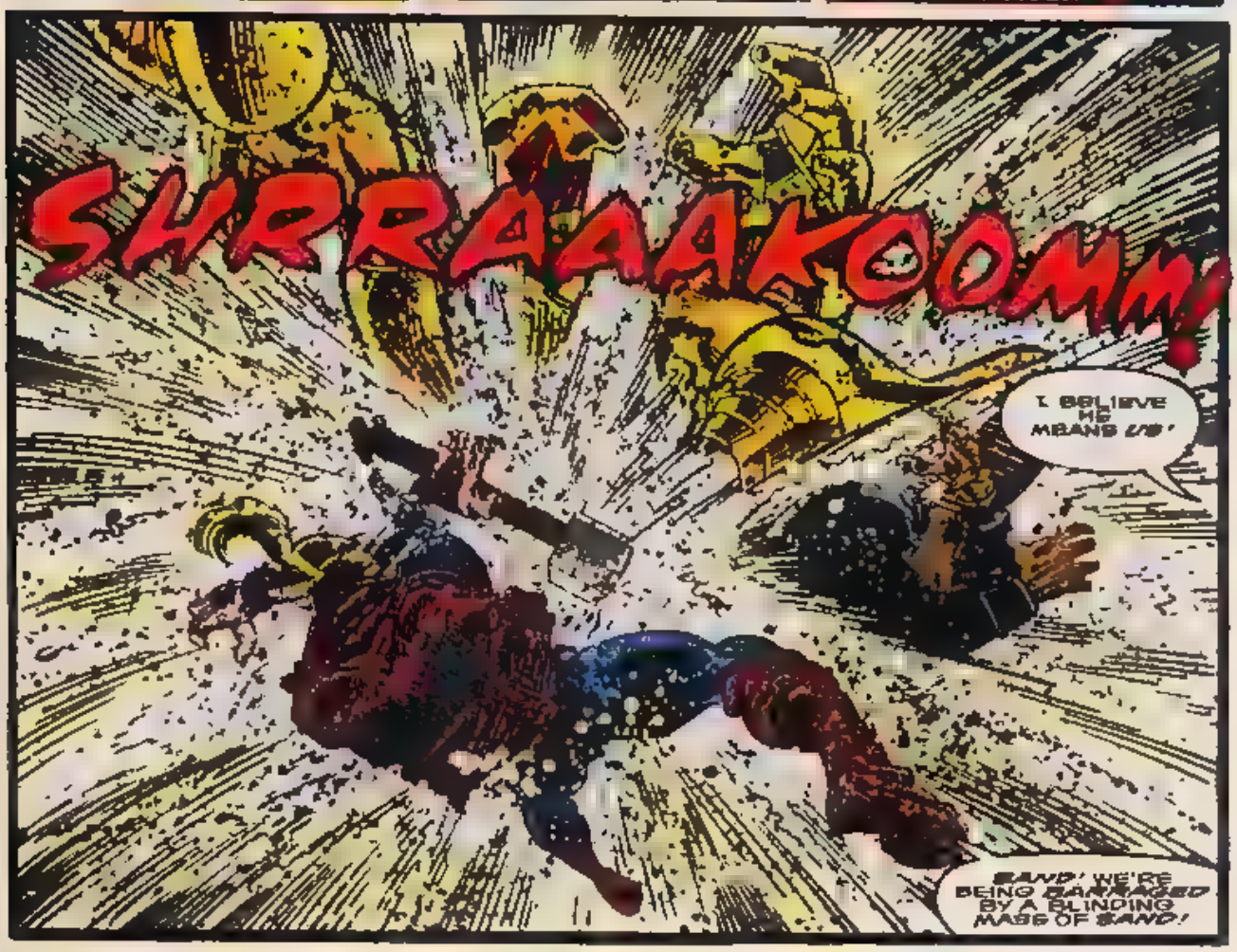
I WILL HANDLE OUR VISITORS PERSONALLY!

NOT BAD! THESE CORRIDORS SEEM TO BE PRETTY CLEAR!
I GUESS THE LOWER LEVELS WERE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND MORE PUNISHMENT!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?
I'M NOT SURE! AFTER THE WIDOW TOLD ME ABOUT THIS PLACE--WITH ALL ITS SUB-LEVELS AND ALL--I FIGURED IT WAS THE BEST PLACE TO CHECK OUT ANY PROJECT CALLED SINKHOLE!
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE WINGING IT!
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?
KRAKA-P WOOM!
NOPE!
WINGING IT SEEMS TO WORK FROM WHERE I STAND!

THUNDERSTRIKE-- YOU MORON!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO EXTRACT CAGE, NOT LEAD HIM HERE!
YOU'RE SUCH A SCREW UP I CAN'T EVEN DEPEND ON YOU TO BE A DECENT SCAPEGOAT!
THIS IS STILL A GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION, AND YOU'RE BOTH GUILTY OF TRESPASSING!

WHOOPS!
SIMMER DOWN DR PAUL! WE'RE NOT HERE TO INTERFERE IN ANY OF YOUR JUVENILE SPY GAMES!
WE JUST WANT TO HELP A MISSING KID!
RIGHT! I BELIEVE YOU YOU MAY ACTUALLY BE STUPID ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCIDENTALLY BLUNDERED UPON A TOP SECRET SHIELD OPERATION BUT I DOUBT THE OTHERS ARE JUST AS NAIVE

OTHERS?
WHAT OTHERS?!


SHRRAAAKOOMM!
I BELIEVE HE MEANS US!
SAND! WE'RE BEING DAMAGED BY A BLINDING MASS OF SAND!

NEXT ISSUE:

A QUIET AND SEDATE LITTLE TALE WHICH WE COULD ONLY CALL...

UP FROM BELOW!

A STORM IS BREWING IN THE NIGHTTIME HEAVENS ABOVE NEW YORK CITY

NOTHING PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT...

UNTIL YOU TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THOSE DARK CLOUDS...

AS IF THE SKY WERE AN INVERTED BATHTUB FROM WHICH THE CONTENTS ARE POURING OUT THROUGH A DRAIN.

...SWIRLING ABOUT SOME INVISIBLE COMMON CENTER...

THE STORM'S FIRST THUNDERBOLT IS A REAL KILLER.

YANCY ST.

KRAKOOOOM

SO IS THE SECOND.

BAOOOM

MOMENTS PASS. THE SOUND OF RAIN ON RUBBLE.

THEN- AS IF THE LIGHTNING HAS SPONTANEOUSLY GENERATED LIFE--

--A GLEAMING METALLIC HAND!

WHEN CONVENTIONAL POLICE TACTICS PROVED USELESS AGAINST SUPER POWERED CRIMINALS, LT MARCUS STONE FORMED A UNIT SPECIALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THEM "MAD DOG" RASSITANO, SHARPSHOOTER — "RIGGER" RUIZ, TEAM ARMORER — "FIREWORKS" FIELSTEIN, DEMOLITIONS EXPERT — "MOTHER" MAJOWSKI, COMMUNICATIONS — ALL REWARDED BY CAPTAIN SHELLY CONKLIN, COMMANDING OFFICER. STAN LEE PRESENTS

CODE: BLUE

WHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...

YOU HEARD US, BUTTBRAINS!

CLEAR OUT-- OR THE YANCY STREET GANG IS GONNA MAIL YA HOME, ONE PIECE AT A TIME!

I WOULD ADVISE YOU, INTERLOPERS, TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE ADMONITIONS OF TWO-FISTED TOMMIE BOYS!

YOU TELL 'EM, DICTIONARY -- NOT THAT THEY'LL UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING

WELL, WHAT ARE WE GONNA HEAR SOME SHOE LEATHER?

ONLY ON YOUR FACE, LITTLE MISSIE.

STARTIN' TONIGHT, THIS IS NOMAD TURF

GUESS WE GOTTA GIVE 'EM THE GUM'S RUSH!

RIGHT! NO DRUGS ON YANCY STREET!

IN YOUR DREAMS, MAN!

LET ME CARVE UP THE SQUIRT, HAT TRICK!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY, SCUZZBALLS.

IT'LL BE A--

WHOA! SPLIT, NOMADS!

SEE, I TOLD YA -- JUST STAND UP TO 'EM AND THEY'D FADE LIKE A CHEAP SHIRT!

YOU SURE HAD THEIR NUMBER, TOMMIE!

UH GUYS..

...SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK IT'S ME THOSE DUDES ARE RUNNING FROM!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU LOWBORN CLODS!

SOON THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BOW TO... DOCTOR DOOM!

POC DOOM? WHAT'S HE DOIN' IN OUR 'HOOD AGAIN?

YOU STICK AROUND AND ASK 'IM, LUGWRENCH!

NONE MAY STAND AGAINST THE POWER OF DOOM!

WHEN HE'S RIGHT, HE'S RIGHT!

ZAP!

ATTAGOY, RHYTHM! THAT'LL SLOW 'IM DOWN--I HOPE!

AFTER I HAVE BESTED YOU, THE WORLD IS MINE!

HUH? Y'KNOW, PEOPLE--I'M STARTIN' TO THINK THAT AIN'T THE REAL DOC DOOM!

HEY--YA THINK MAYBE IT'S ONE'A THEM ROBOTS HE HAD IN THAT OLD FACTORY HE TOOK OVER, BEFORE IT EXPLODED?*

COULD BE, MANNY

FZZZT

*SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #362.--MIKE

BUT JUST RIGHT NOW--

--WE GOTTA GET--UNNH!--THIS EMPTY DUMPSTER--PUSHED AGAINST THAT BRICK WALL, BEFORE--

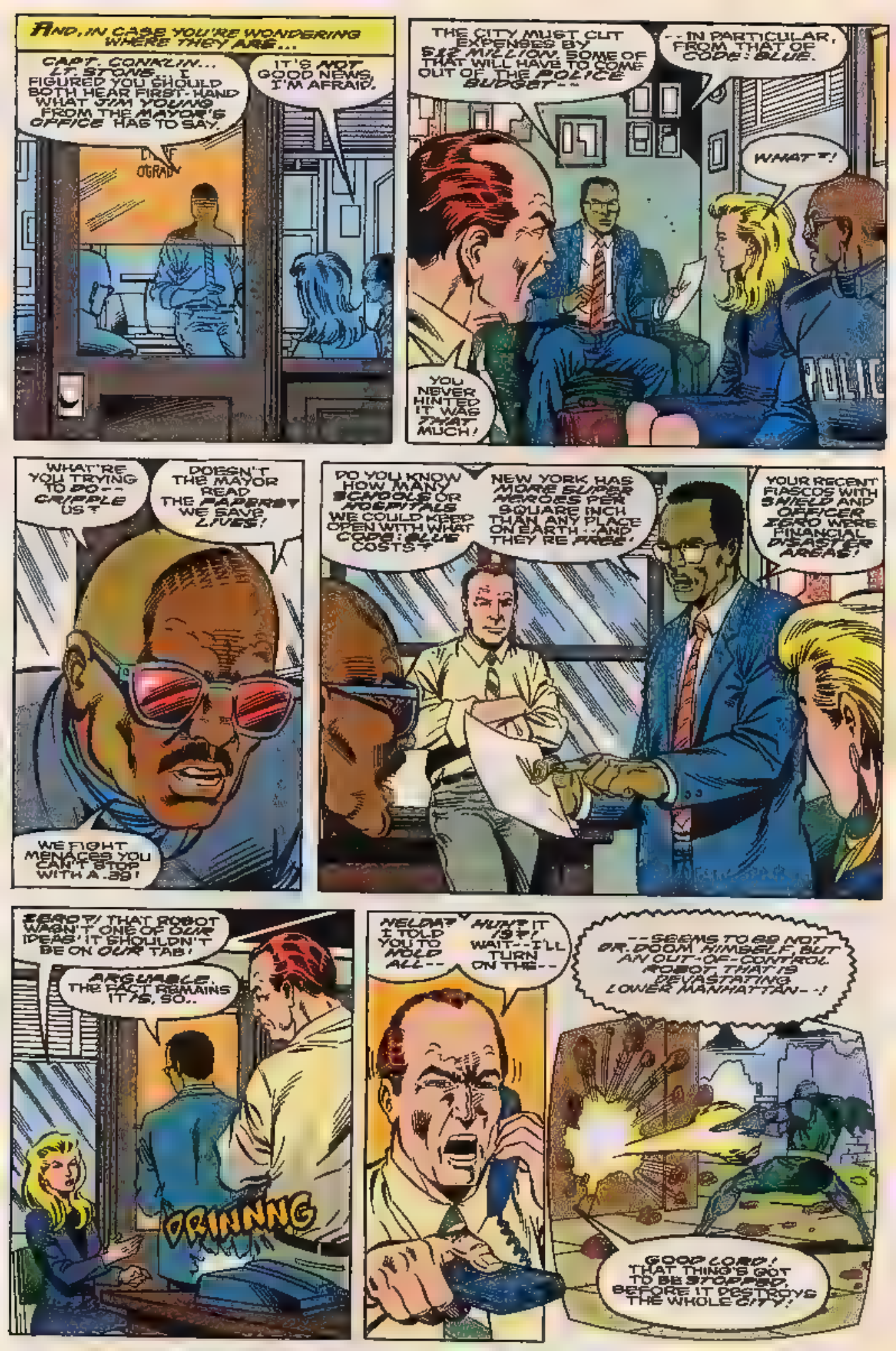
MADE IT--JUST BARELY!

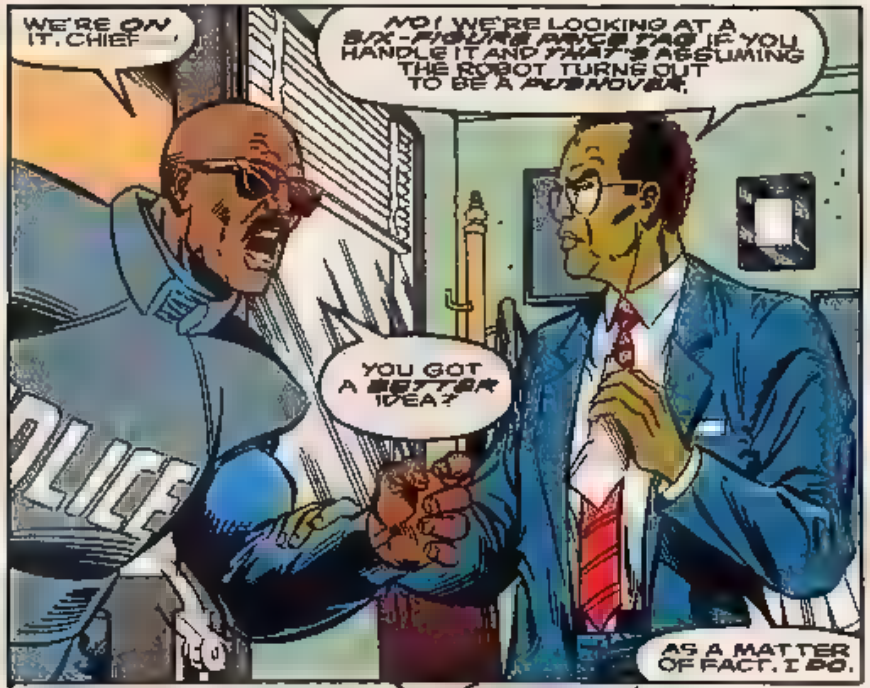
KRASSH

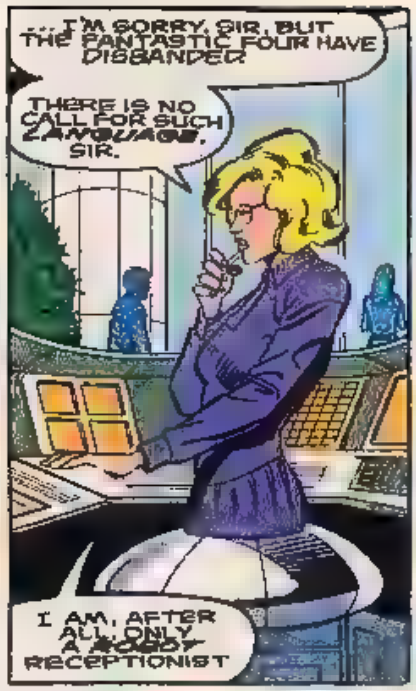
ACTUALLY, FELLOWS, OUR MAKESHIFT BARRICADE ISN'T PROVING QUITE AS EFFICACIOUS AS WE'D HOPED

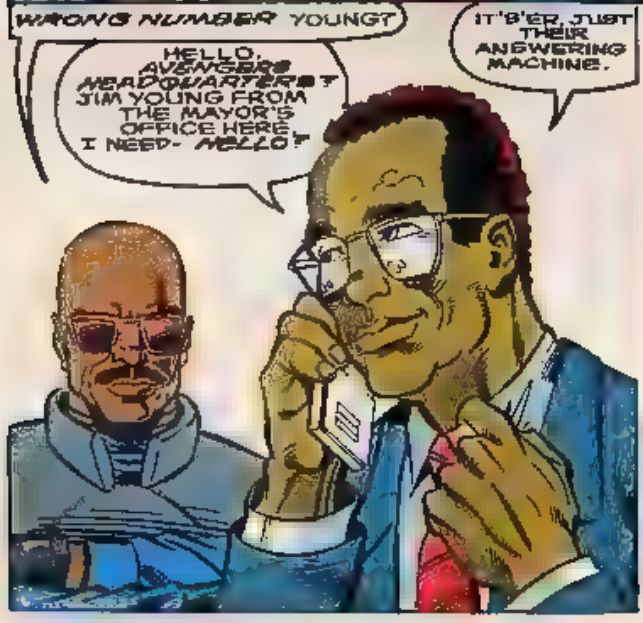
FWOOOSH

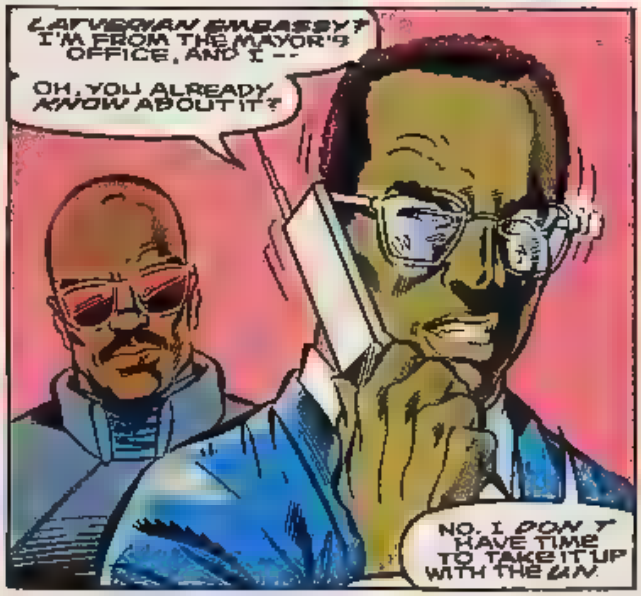
TRANSLATION: THERE'S NEVER A COP AROUND WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE!

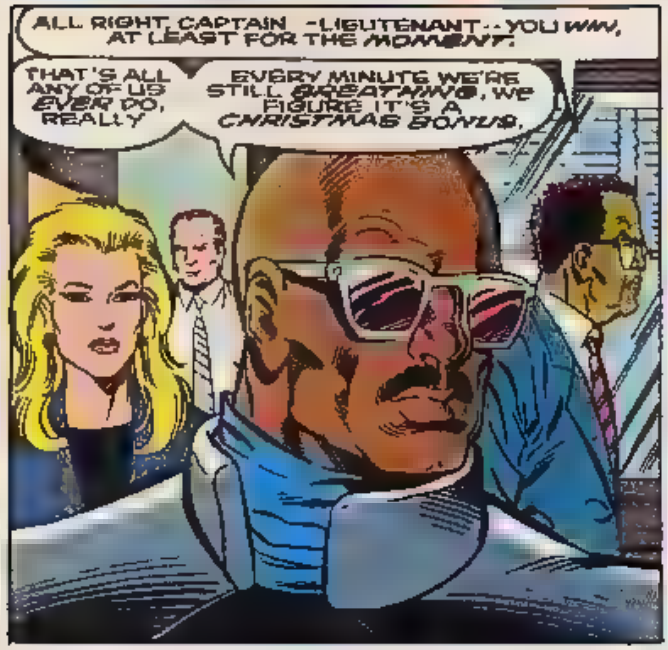

AND, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHERE THEY ARE...
CAPT. CONKLIN... LT. STONE. I FIGURED YOU SHOULD BOTH HEAR FIRST-HAND WHAT JIM YOUNG FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE HAS TO SAY.
IT'S NOT GOOD NEWS, I'M AFRAID.
THE CITY MUST CUT EXPENSES BY $12 MILLION. SOME OF THAT WILL HAVE TO COME OUT OF THE POLICE BUDGET--
--IN PARTICULAR, FROM THAT OF CODE: BLUE.
WHAT?!
YOU NEVER HINTED IT WAS THAT MUCH!
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO-- CRIPPLE US?
DOESN'T THE MAYOR READ THE PAPERS? WE SAVE LIVES!
WE FIGHT MENACES YOU CAN'T STOP WITH A .38!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY SCHOOLS OR HOSPITALS WE COULD KEEP OPEN WITH WHAT CODE: BLUE COSTS?
NEW YORK HAS MORE SUPER HEROES PER SQUARE INCH THAN ANY PLACE ON EARTH--AND THEY'RE FREE!
YOUR RECENT FIASCOS WITH SHIELD AND OFFICER ZERO WERE FINANCIAL DISASTER AREAS!
ZERO?! THAT ROBOT WASN'T ONE OF OUR IDEAS! IT SHOULDN'T BE ON OUR TAB!
ARGUABLE. THE FACT REMAINS IT IS, SO..
DRINNNG
NELDA? I TOLD YOU TO HOLD ALL--
HUH? IT IS?! WAIT--I'LL TURN ON THE--
--SEEMS TO BE NOT DR. DOOM HIMSELF, BUT AN OUT-OF-CONTROL ROBOT THAT IS DEVASTATING LOWER MANHATTAN--!
GOOD LORD! THAT THING'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, BEFORE IT DESTROYS THE WHOLE CITY!

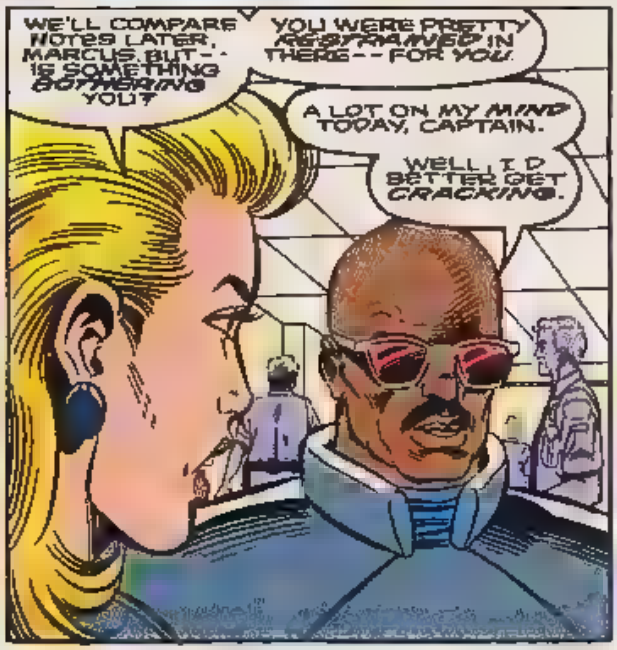

WE'RE ON IT, CHIEF!
NO! WE'RE LOOKING AT A SIX-FIGURE PRICE TAG IF YOU HANDLE IT AND THAT'S ASSUMING THE ROBOT TURNS OUT TO BE A PUSHOVER.
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO.


...I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE DISBANDED.
THERE IS NO CALL FOR SUCH LANGUAGE, SIR.
I AM, AFTER ALL, ONLY A ROBOT RECEPTIONIST.


WRONG NUMBER YOUNG?
HELLO, AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS? JIM YOUNG FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE HERE. I NEED- HELLO?
IT'S JUST THEIR ANSWERING MACHINE.


LATVERIAN EMBASSY? I'M FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND I--
OH, YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT IT?
NO, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE UN.


ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN --LIEUTENANT--YOU WIN, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT.
THAT'S ALL ANY OF US EVER DO, REALLY.
EVERY MINUTE WE'RE STILL BREATHING, WE FIGURE IT'S A CHRISTMAS BONUS.


WE'LL COMPARE NOTES LATER, MARCUS. BUT--IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
YOU WERE PRETTY REASTRAINED IN THERE--FOR YOU.
A LOT ON MY MIND TODAY, CAPTAIN.
WELL, I'D BETTER GET CRACKING.

THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY AT HOME SINCE MY WIFE'S ULTIMATUM-- THAT'S NOT TO ME
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED MY DETACHMENT PLAYER RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER
WELL, BETTER WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER
A LOT ON MY MIND'-- PLUS THE UNDERTAKEMENT OF THE YEAR!
RREEEEEEEE
WE CAME AS SOON AS WE GOT YOUR CALL LT WONG
PARRITANO-- EXCELLENT-- ALIVE-- GOOD TO SEE YOU GOLDBRICKS!
BUT WHAT'S THAT THING DOING JUST STANDING THERE POUNDING ROCK INTO RUBBLE?
DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MUSH SIR
CHECK, ARTHUR ALL WE'RE SAVING MANDER SINCE JACKSON--
POLICE
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO JACKSON, RIGGER!
WHERE'S MOTHER MAJOWSKI?
WE'VE ALREADY OFF-LOADED THE ANTI-TANK CANNON
INSIDE THE BAY'S VAN, LIEUTENANT BUT DON'T SWEAT IT
POLICE LINE DO NOT
POLICE LINE DO NOT

THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?

WE'RE UP AGAINST ONE OF THOSE SO-CALLED *DOOMBOTS*-- SO YOU CAN TAKE OFF THE *GLOVES*!

DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE GET TO HEAR THE *FAIRER SWEETEST WORDS* IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LIEUTENANT?

FADOOM

FIRE AT WILL!

THAT'S *THEM*!

WE GOT 'IM!

SH AK SSSH

YOUR ARRIVAL HERE IS *NOT* UNEXPECTED

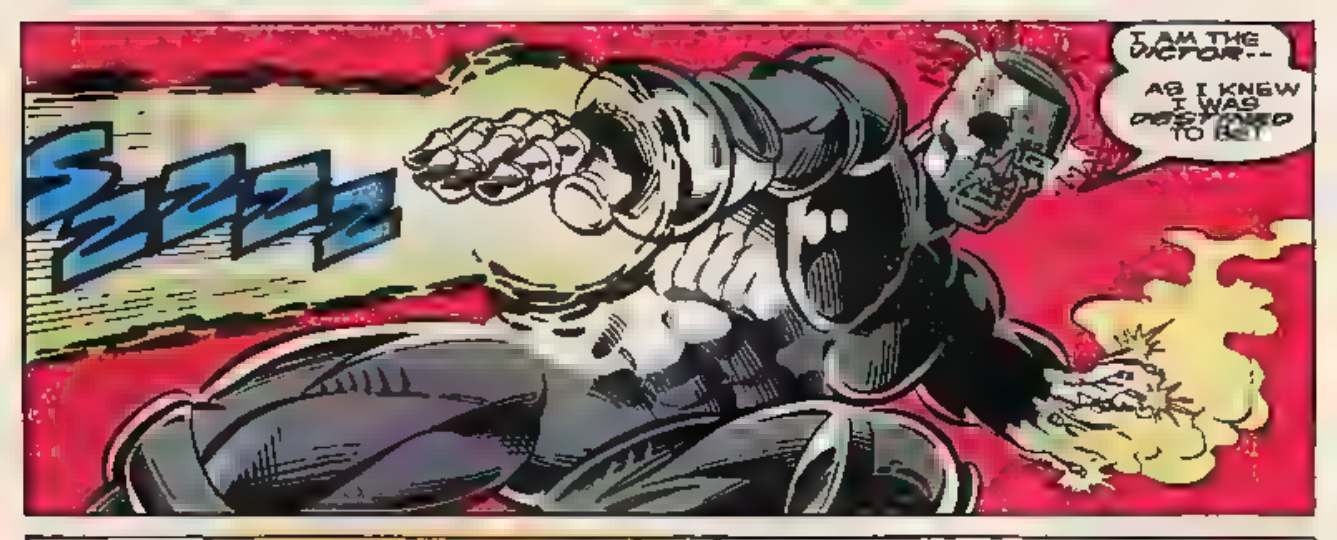
DID YOU THINK TO FIND ME *UNPREPARED*?

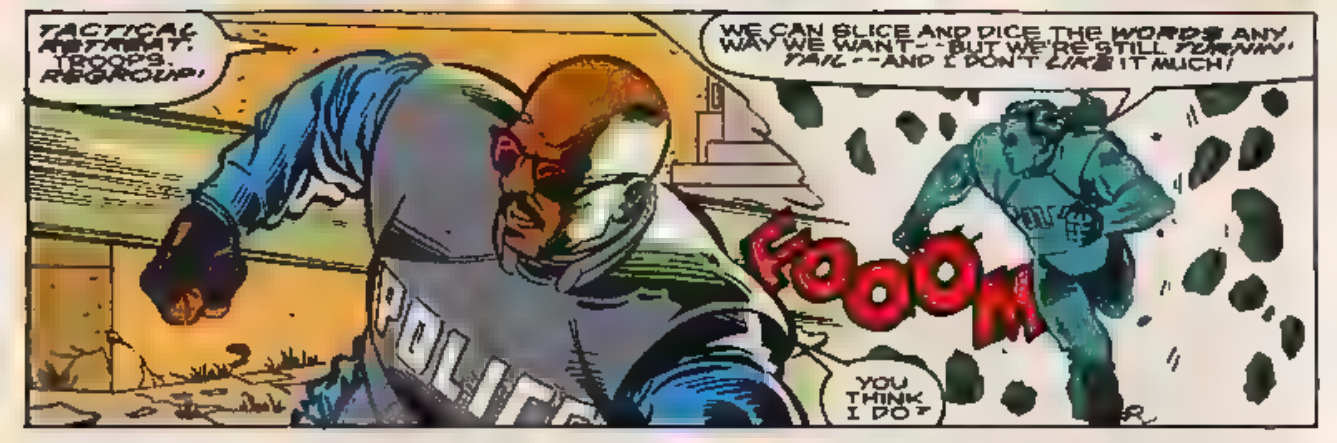
NUM! WE BURNT OFF ITS *CLOTHES*-- BUT THAT'S ABOUT *IT*!

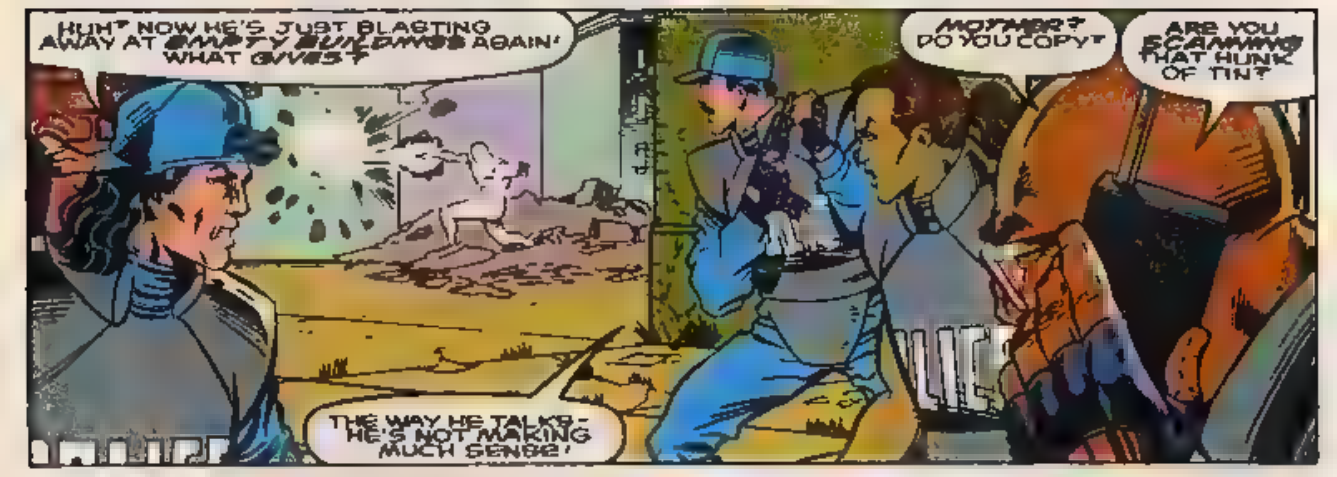
NOW THE GAME HAS *ENDED*!

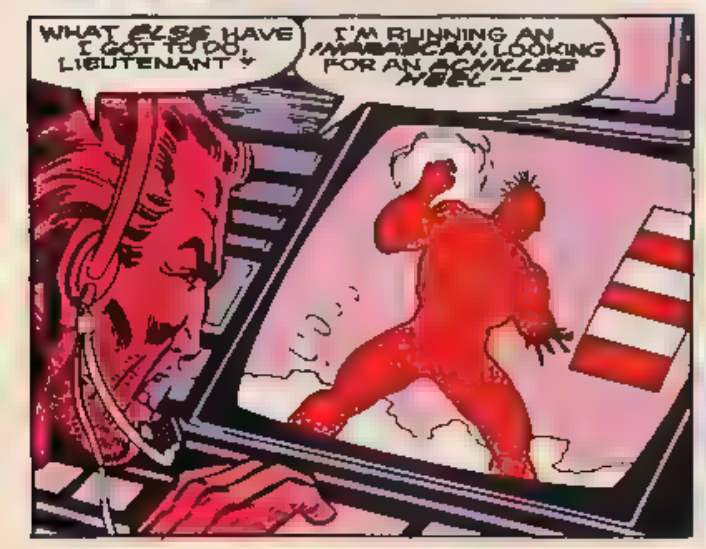
YOU HAVE *LOST*--

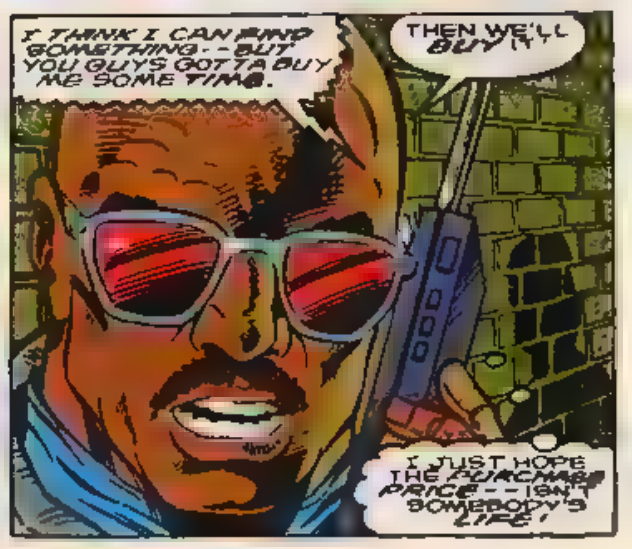
-- AND YOU SHALL PAY THE PENALTY!
BLOOOOM
FALL BACK!
THE CANNON WAS JUST A WARM-UP, MAD DOG -- TO FORCE THE ROBOT TO SHOW ITS HAND
SHOOO
I'VE BEEN JUST 'ITCHIN' TO TRY OUT THIS NEW ROCKET LAUNCHER--
--BUT I'LL ADMIT, I'D FEEL A WHOLE LOT HAPPIER--
OOOMM
--IF THAT ROBOT DIDN'T ACT LIKE IT FELT NOTHING MORE THAN A SWIFT KICK IN THE BUTT!
DOCTOR DOOM CAN NEVER BE VANQUISHED!

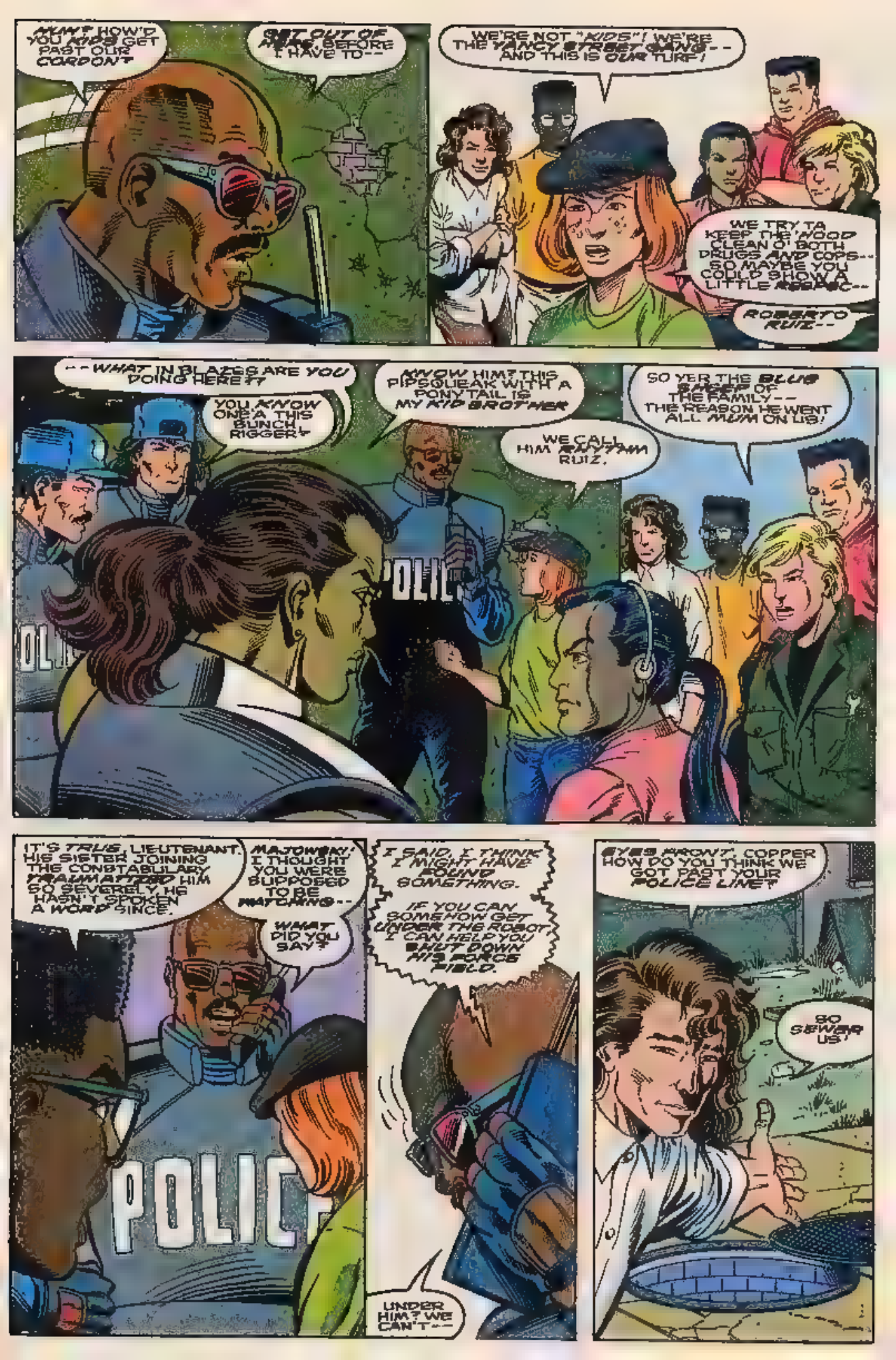

I AM THE DOCTOR--
AS I KNEW I WAS DESTINED TO BE!


TACTICAL RETREAT! TROOPS, REGROUP!
WE CAN SLICE AND DICE THE WORDS ANY WAY WE WANT--BUT WE'RE STILL RUNNIN' TAIL--AND I DON'T LIKE IT MUCH!
KOOOM
YOU THINK I DO?


HUH? NOW HE'S JUST BLASTING AWAY AT EMPTY BUILDINGS AGAIN! WHAT GIVES?
THE WAY HE TALKS--HE'S NOT MAKING MUCH SENSE!
MOTHER? DO YOU COPY?
ARE YOU SCANNING THAT HUNK OF TIN?


WHAT ELSE HAVE I GOT TO DO, LIEUTENANT?
I'M RUNNING AN IMMIGRANT, LOOKING FOR AN ACHILLES HEEL--


I THINK I CAN FIND SOMETHING--BUT YOU GUYS GOTTA BUY ME SOME TIME.
THEN WE'LL BUY IT!
I JUST HOPE THE PURCHASE PRICE--ISN'T SOMEBODY'S LIFE!


MMM? HOW'D YOU KIDS GET PAST OUR CORDON?
GET OUT OF MY WAY, BEFORE I HAVE TO--
WE'RE NOT "KIDS"! WE'RE THE YANCY STREET GANG-- AND THIS IS OUR TURF!
WE TRY TA KEEP THE 'HOOD CLEAN O' BOTH DRUGS AND COPS-- SO MAYBE YOU COULD SHOW A LITTLE RESPEC--
ROBERTO RUIZ--
--WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING HERE??
YOU KNOW ONE'A THIS BUNCH, RIGGER?
KNOW HIM? THIS PIPSQUEAK WITH A PONYTAIL IS MY KID BROTHER
WE CALL HIM RHYTHM RUIZ.
SO YER THE BLUE SHEEP OF THE FAMILY-- THE REASON HE WENT ALL MUM ON US!
POLICE
IT'S TRUE, LIEUTENANT. HIS SISTER JOINING THE CONSTABULARY TRAUMATIZED HIM SO SEVERELY HE HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD SINCE.
MAJOWSKI! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING--
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
POLICE
I SAID, I THINK I MIGHT HAVE FOUND SOMETHING.
IF YOU CAN SOMEHOW GET UNDER THE ROBOT, I CAN HELP YOU SHUT DOWN HIS FORCE FIELD.
UNDER HIM? WE CAN'T--
EYES FRONT, COPPER HOW DO YOU THINK WE GOT PAST YOUR POLICE LINE?
SO SEWER US!

AS, IN THE NICER PART OF TOWN...

SHELLEY, HONEY... I'M SORRY I HAD TO BRING ALL THIS UP OVER DINNER...

WITH ALL THE HOURS I'VE BEEN PUTTING IN LATELY, PAUL, WE HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY CHANCE TO TALK THAT WE CAN.

ARE YOU REALLY THAT WORRIED ABOUT BEING LAID OFF?

AFRAID SO. WITH THIS CURRENT WAVE OF DEFENSE CUTS, REDFIELD ELECTRONICS STANDS TO LOSE MOST OF ITS GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS--AND THAT MAKES ME SO MUCH OVER-EDUCATED DEADWOOD.

CUTS. NOW THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN RELATE TO

DON'T WORRY, DARLING. WHATEVER HAPPENS--JUST LIKE ALWAYS--

--WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER.

THANKS, HONEY. DOES THE POLICE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATE WHAT A WONDERFUL WIFE THEIR CAPTAIN COMMAND IS WHEN SHE'S NOT RAMRODDING CODE: BLUE?

FRANKLY, I DOUBT IT.

WELL, I'D BETTER GET AMY AND PAUL JR. OVER TO THEIR GRANDMA'S FOR THE NIGHT.

C'MON, KIDS. SAY GOODBYE TO MOMMY.

'BYE, MOMMY

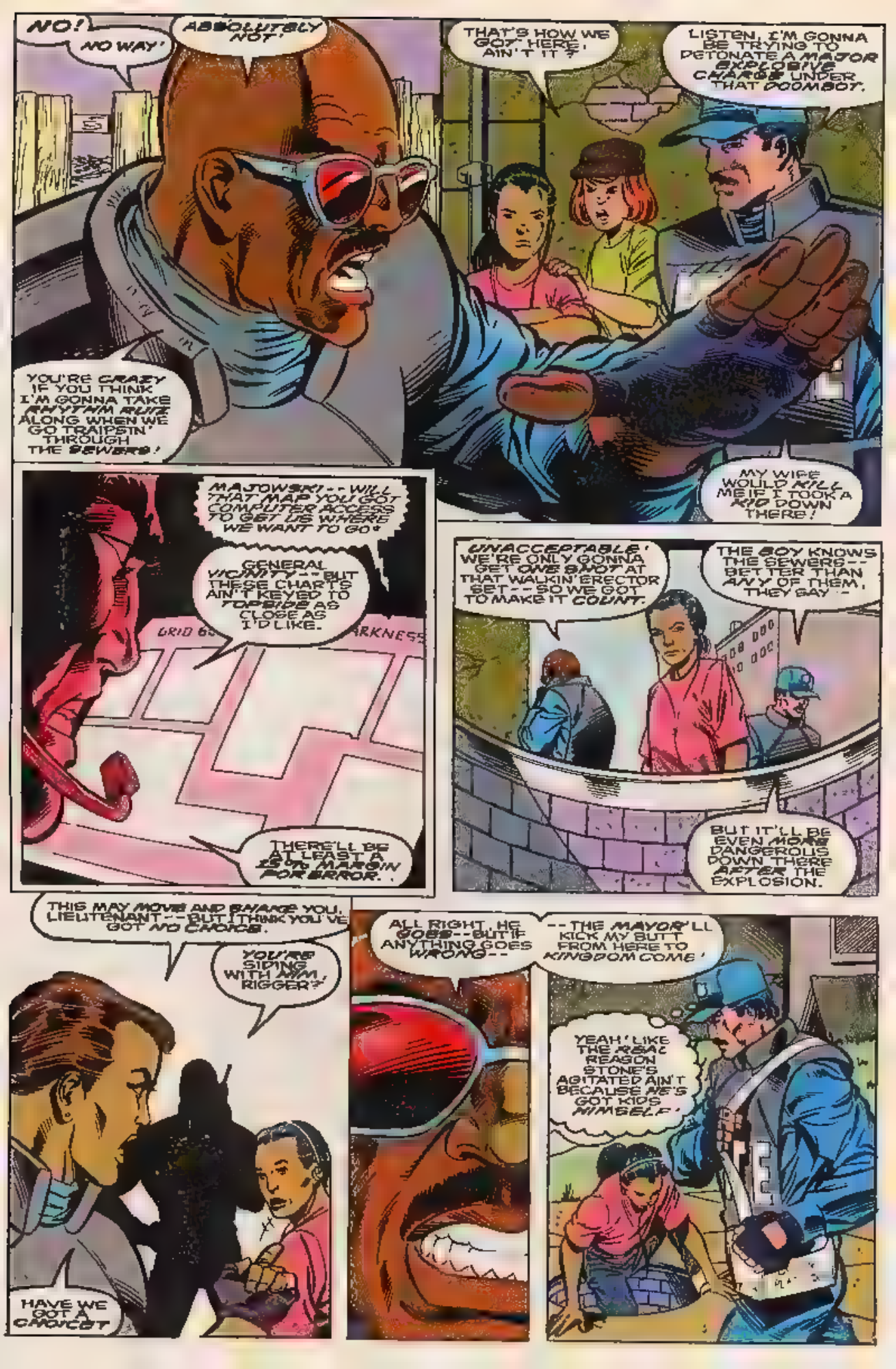
'BYE.

I'LL...SEE YOU ALL, TOMORROW.

GOD, IT TEARS ME APART TO BE SENDING THEM AWAY...JUST WHEN I SHOULD BE TUCKING THEM INTO BED.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT QUITTING THE FORCE SO I COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE FAMILY OF THEM--

--BUT NOW, WITH PAUL ON THE VERGE OF LOSING HIS JOB--!


NO!
NO WAY!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
YOU'RE CRAZY IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA TAKE RHYTHM RUTZ ALONG WHEN WE GO TRAIPSIN' THROUGH THE SEWERS!
THAT'S HOW WE GOT HERE, AIN'T IT?
LISTEN, I'M GONNA BE TRYING TO DETONATE A MAJOR EXPLOSIVE CHARGE UNDER THAT DOOMBOT.
MY WIFE WOULD KILL ME IF I TOOK A KID DOWN THERE!
MAJOWSKI--WILL THAT MAP YOU GOT COMPUTER ACCESS TO GET US WHERE WE WANT TO GO?
GENERAL VICINITY--BUT THESE CHARTS AIN'T KEYED TO TOPSIDE AS CLOSE AS I'D LIKE.
THERE'LL BE AT LEAST A 15% MARGIN FOR ERROR.
UNACCEPTABLE! WE'RE ONLY GONNA GET ONE SHOT AT THAT WALKIN' ERECTOR SET--SO WE GOT TO MAKE IT COUNT.
THE BOY KNOWS THE SEWERS--BETTER THAN ANY OF THEM, THEY SAY--
BUT IT'LL BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS DOWN THERE AFTER THE EXPLOSION.
THIS MAY MOVE AND SHAKE YOU, LIEUTENANT--BUT I THINK YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
YOU'RE SIDING WITH HIM, RIGGER?
HAVE WE GOT A CHOICE?
ALL RIGHT, HE GOES--BUT IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG--
--THE MAYOR'LL KICK MY BUTT FROM HERE TO KINGDOM COME!
YEAH! LIKE THE REAL REASON STONE'S AGITATED AIN'T BECAUSE HE'S GOT KIDS HIMSELF!

SOON, BENEATH THE THREATENED CITY..

I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE KID, MOTHER--HE SURE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND A SEWER!

IS OUR DOOMBOT STAYIN' PUT?

SKWEEEE

NEGATIVE, FIELSTEIN. HE'S SHAMBLIN' AROUND IN KIND OF A RANDOM MANNER

AND IF THIS AIN'T A DIRECT HIT, IT'LL DO NOTHIN' BUT MAKE HIM MAD IF A ROBOT CAN GET MAD!

HOLD IT! WE'RE COMING TO SOME PIPES THAT MUST'VE COLLAPSED FROM THE DOOMBOT'S BLASTS...

BUT RUIZ SEEMS TO KNOW SOME LARGE OVERFLOW PIPES!

HUH? THERE'S NONE ON MY MAPS!

WELL--

I THINK I'M GONNA FOLLOW 'EM, JUST THE SAME!

WE'RE FINALLY OUT OF THE PIPES

CHECK! I'M GETTING A READING

DO YOUR BUSINESS, FIREWORKS

SHE'S GONE!

YOU CLOWNS UP THERE STILL KNOW HOW TO COUNT BACKWARD SINCE THE NASA CUTS?

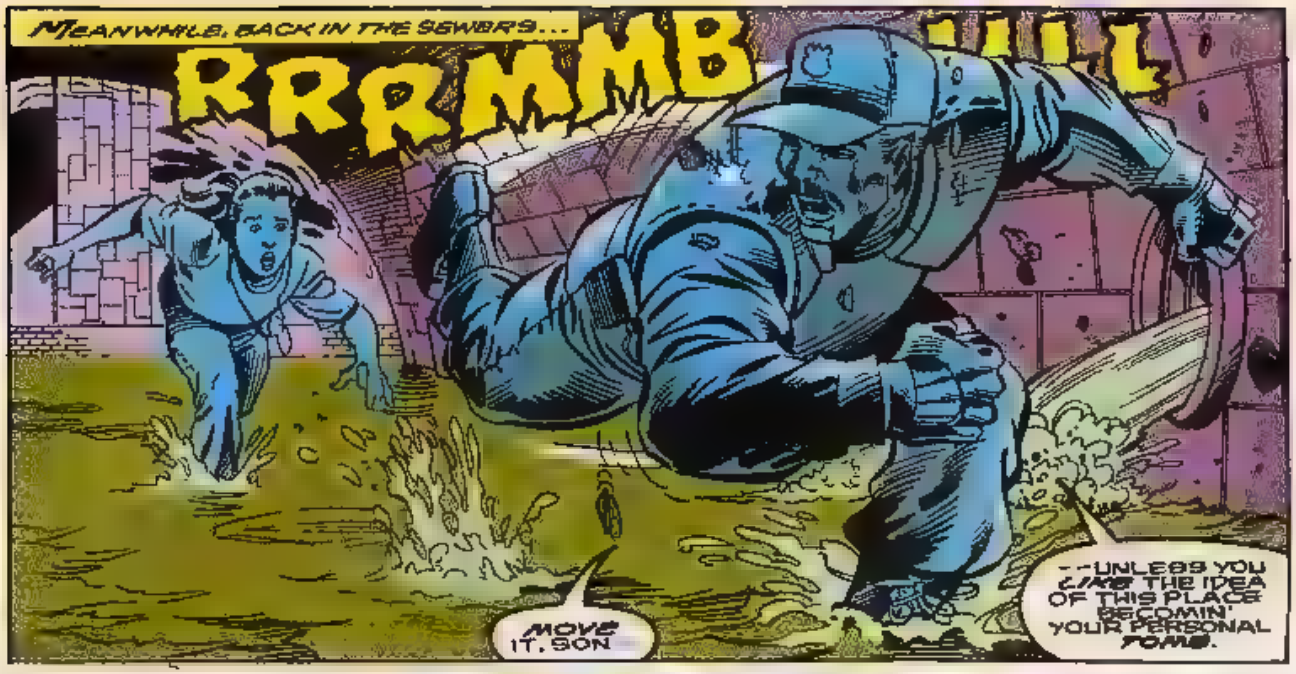
...3...

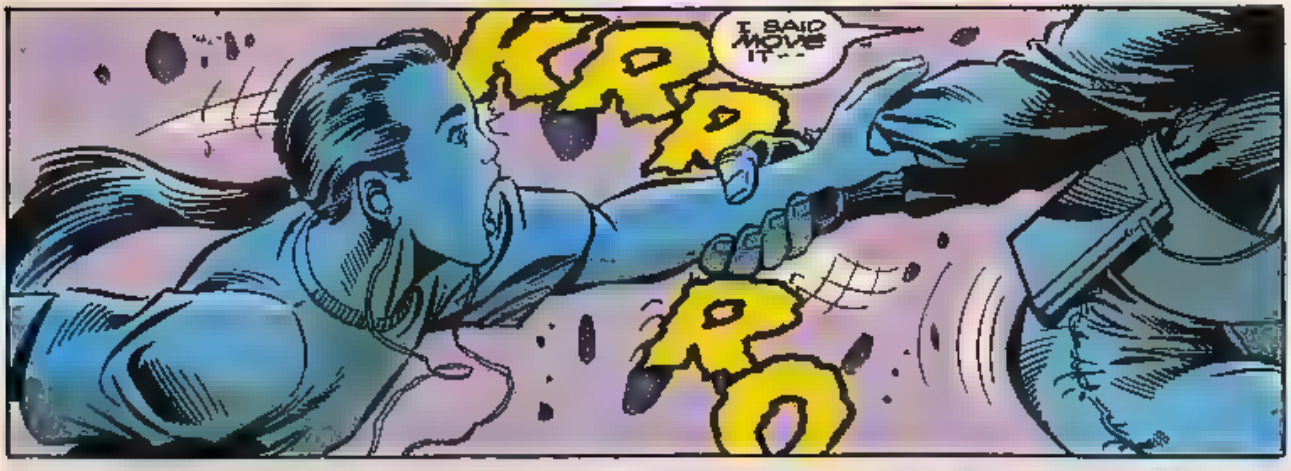
...2...

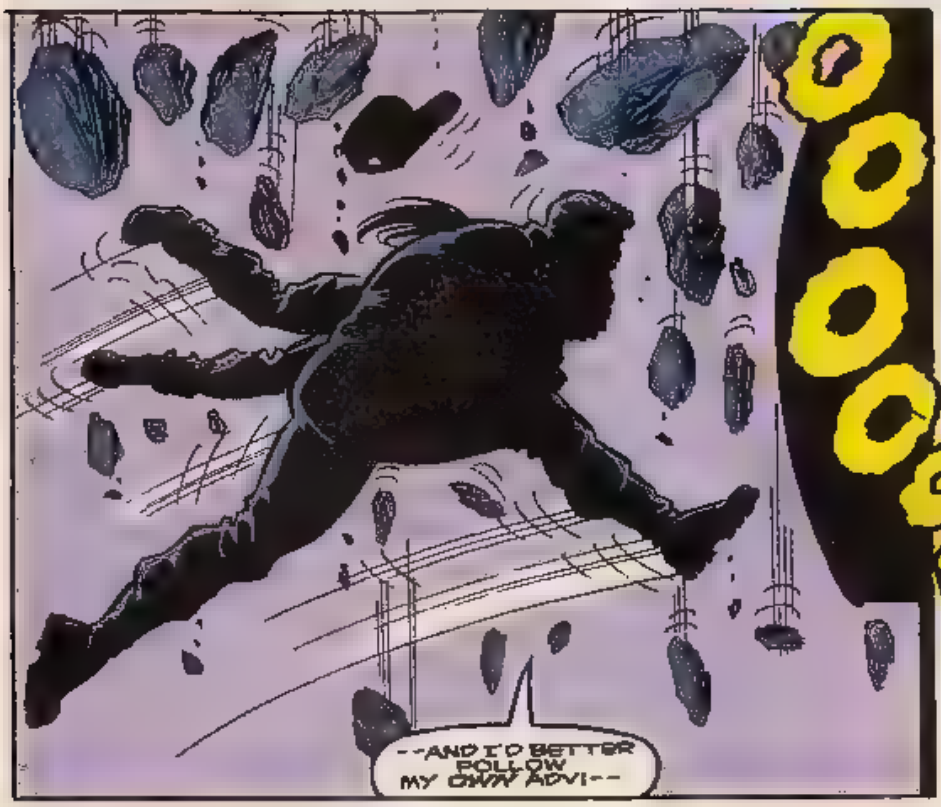
...1...

NOW!

BAOOOOOOM
BY GEORGE, I THINK HE'S GOT IT!
THAT BLAST WENT OFF RIGHT UNDER--
I ALWAYS KNEW HOW WORTHY A FOE YOU WERE, RICHARDS!
THAT--IS WHAT WILL MAKE MY INEVITABLE VICTORY--ALL THE MORE SWEET!
NO...
"RICHARDS"?
THAT THING THINKS I'M--REED RICHARDS!!?


MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE SEWERS...
RRRMMB
MOVE IT, SON
--UNLESS YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF THIS PLACE BECOMIN' YOUR PERSONAL TOMB.


I SAID MOVE IT--
KRRRR


OOOOOOOMMM
--AND I'D BETTER FOLLOW MY OWN ADVI--

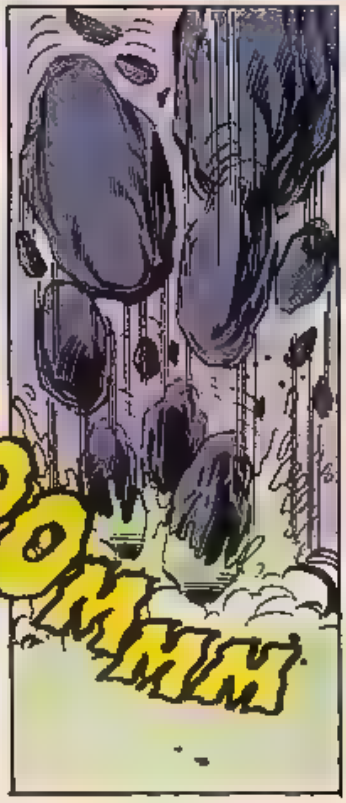


FIG. OVERHEAD--
MAJOWSKI? ANY WORD ON--
GET HIM, YOU GOLDBRICKS!
YOU THINK WE REQUISITIONED THAT ADAMANTIUM-LACED NET SO YOU COULD GO TRAWLING?
RICHARDS?? WHAT ARE YOU DOING??
ANY WORD ON FIELSTEIN AND THE BOY?
WE GOT HIM, LT STONE.
LIEUTENANT.
NOT A PEEP, RUIZ.
NOTHING ON ROBERTO AND FIREWORKS?
NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS
RIGHT
LIEUTENANT! I FINALLY ISOLATED THE DATA I WANTED IN THE F.F. FILES--AND IT AIN'T GOOD
THAT MODEL BOOMBOT, WHEN DAMAGED, GOES INTO SELF-DESTRUCT MODE--AND THIS ONE'S DEFINITELY DAMAGED GOODS.
THE BLAST IS LIABLE TO LEVEL THE NEIGHBORHOOD--
--AND THERE CAN'T BE MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS LEFT BEFORE SHE BLOWS!
RUIZ! WE'VE GOT TO DISARM THAT 'BOT--FAST!
SHE WENT DOWN THE HOLE AFTER HER BROTHER--BUT LUGWRENCH IS YOUR MAN!
YOU BETTER BE.

WITHIN MOMENTS...
YOU SURE YOU CAN FOLLOW MAJOWSKI'S INSTRUCTIONS AS I RELAY 'EM
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY IF I BOOF--
--YOU'LL BE THE SECOND TO KNOW!
SO FAR - SO GOOD! MAJOWSKI SAYS, ONE LAST THING--
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HUH?
HE SAYS PUT CLAMPS ON THE RIGHT TWO WIRES--
--AND PRAY!
NO PROBLEM. WE PROBABLY HAD A WHOLE THREE SECONDS TO SPARE
WHEW! YOU EVER WANT A JOB WITH THE POLICE WHEN YOU GROW UP, KID, YOU COME SEE ME!
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH. HEY--HERE COME THE ROLLICKIN' RUIZES
WELL, THAT WASN'T TOO SHABBY.
GOT TO ADMIT, COPS/BLUE DON'T STINK AS MUCH AS MOST COPS.
WHAT LITTLE LARRY'S ENDEAVORING TO ARTICULATE IS-
I THINK I KNOW, DICTIONARY
THANKS, GUYS!
LIEUTENANT--I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA HAVE MY BUNS FOR BREAKFAST, FOR BEING AWOL WHEN YOU NEEDED THAT BOMB DEFUSED.
GUESS I JUST WENT CRAZY 'CAUSE MY BABY BROTHER WAS-
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, RUIZ--

"--AND I'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO DO BEFORE BREAKFAST!!!"

...AND THE ROBOT SEEMS TO HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS DR DOOM.

CHIEF O'GRADY

POLICE

IT KEPT SPOUTIN' LINES HE USED YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S RECORDS

ANYWAY, AS YOU CAN SEE, THE COPS--AND CODE: BLUE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE OUT THERE

WHY? BECAUSE YOU THINK A FEW YOUNG HOODLUMS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING ONE DAY BECOMING POLICEMEN INSTEAD OF GANGSTERS?

BECAUSE WE'RE SHOWIN' 'EM THAT REAL MEN AND WOMEN CAN ACCOMPLISH THINGS.

NOT JUST UNTOUCHABLE HEROES LIKE IRON MAN OR THUNDERSTRIKE--BUT PEOPLE THEY CAN ASPIRE TO OR BECOME--OR EVEN SURPASS.

ALL RIGHT, MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A POINT, BUT--

"BUT" MY BUTT.

POLICE

CODE: BLUE SAVED THE CITY'S BACON LAST NIGHT WHEN NO SUPER HERO SHOWED UP--

--NO FANTASTIC FOUR, NO AVENGERS, NOT EVEN ONE FREAKY MUTANT!

AGREED. NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST LET ME GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE...

OKAY, BUT IT'D BETTER BE GOOD.

THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY "GOOD".

A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LAWSUIT'S JUST BEEN FILED AGAINST THE CITY OVER THE DAMAGE CREATED BY THE DOOMBOT.

WHAT??

IT ALLEGES THAT THE DAMAGE WAS MADE WORSE BECAUSE THE CITY USED INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE.

TRANSLATION--CODE: BLUE.

THE SUIT WAS FILED BY KRASK & KRASK -- THE WORST AMBULANCE CHASERS IN THE COUNTRY -- BUT IT'S STILL GOING TO MAKE WAVES -- BIG ONES.

THEY'VE GOTTEN MILLIONS IN THE PAST FROM TONY STARK, THE AVENGERS, THE F.F. -- RATHER, FROM THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES.

NOW, BECAUSE OF YOUR UNIT, THEY'RE AFTER THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?

THAT'S A JOB FOR THE CITY'S LAWYERS.

WHAT YOU'LL DO ABOUT IT, LIEUTENANT, IS TO SIT ON YOUR HANDS.

STARTING NOW, ANY AND ALL FUTURE CODE: BLUE MISSIONS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE APPROVED BEFOREHAND -- BY ME.

PERSONALLY.

THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE HERE TO LET YOU SHOWBOATS MAKE THE DECISION.

REMEMBER -- YOU GO INTO ACTION AGAIN WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL --

-- AND YOU'LL ALL WIND UP POUNDING BEATS UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER.

CHIEF O'GRADY

I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

CHIEF -- CAPTAIN -- WHY DIDN'T YOU TWO SAY ANYTHING?

WE'D ALREADY ARGUED OURSELVES BLUE IN THE FACE BEFORE YOU GOT HERE, MARCUS.

WE'VE GOT TO FACE FACTS, PEOPLE.

PD

FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES -- WE MAY JUST HAVE SEEN THE END OF CODE: BLUE.

LT. STONE AND COMPANY CAN BE FORGIVEN IF THEY HAVEN'T THOUGHT OVER MUCH ABOUT THE STORM STILL THREATENING THE CITY.
THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE.
KRRAKK
THE FIRST THUNDERBOLT WAS DEFLECTED--ATTRACTED TO THE MAGNETIZED METAL OF THE DOOMBOT.
THE SECOND FINALLY FULFILLS ITS PURPOSE--
--BY OPENING, IN EFFECT--A DOOR.
AND YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHAT MAY STEP THROUGH AN OPEN DOORWAY...
WHERE IS HE??
I'M GONNA KILL HIM!
HE IS CALLED THE WRECKER...
AND HE IS QUITE MAD--
--IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.
NEXT:
ENTER··THOR!

MARVEL COMICS
DOUBLE FEATURE
$2.50 US
$3.40 CAN
13
OCT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CODE BLUE
PUNISHER
STRIKE
NEW YORK CITY'S SUPER COPS IN THEIR OWN SHARPSHOOTING LIMITED SERIES!!

THE THUNDER STRIKES!

Dear Tom and the rest of the crew,

WOW. THUNDERSTRIKE is the best. I actually mean the BEST comic hero there is. That is why I am worried that you are going to cancel it. I say this because I was reading my back issues of MARVEL AGE (another excellent comic), when I came across page 27 of MARVEL AGE #123, where you stated that you knew how THUNDERSTRIKE was going to end. If you cancel THUNDERSTRIKE you will lose one of the most loyal Marvel fans.

I think that I may have forgotten to mention what a terrific job you and Ron Frenz do. I also happen to think that the style of lettering and coloring helps in making this the best Marvel comic there is, "funny" or otherwise.

Please don't cancel and keep up the good work.

P.S. I would love to hear from any other THUNDERSTRIKE fans or Eric himself.

Lee Johnson
21 Porthmeor Road
St. Austrell, Cornwall
ENGLAND PL25 3LT

THUNDERSTRIKE isn't going to be cancelled, Lee. In fact, we just bought a new pair of batteries!

Dear T'Strikes,

First, I would like to say thanks for writing a great story with awesome pictures, to boot. But, I have one complaint--there are some spots where letters (or sentences) that should be there aren't. One example is issue #10, page #31, in the "NEXT ISSUE" box, line #4, it says, quote, "Also, the return of Sangri" Isn't it supposed to be "Sangré?"

I have some questions . . .

1) You probably won't answer this, but is Ed Marrero Bloodaxe?

2) Since Steele isn't Bloodaxe, where was he when 'Strike was fighting Bloodaxe the second time in issue #1?

3) Who responds to the letters written to THE THUNDER STRIKES!?

So, until a baboon wields the Thunderstrike mace, make mine Marvel!

P.S. Stick with "The Thunder Strikes" for the letters page name. 'Nuff said!

Jason Englert
2101 Maiden Lane
Rochester, NY 14626

Answer Time (our favorite part of the day)!

1) You're absolutely right--we're not going to tell you!

2) In front of the mirror, where else?

3) That is the job of the resident wastes.

Dear Ralph and Matt,

I've enjoyed the direction of this book a whole lot over the last couple of issues. Following the big return of Bloodaxe in issue #9, I was worried that there would be a big drop-off in intensity and quality, as is often the case after a major denouement occurs. Instead you guys have kept me pleasantly surprised.

My first surprise occurred in issue #9. I totally expected that you would reveal Bloodaxe's identity, and end the mystery of the character forever. Instead, you threw us a real curve by not revealing his name, instead revealing Eric's identity to *him* instead. Well done!

Then, in issue #10, you gave us a warm, witty story that was intimate and classically fun, rather than world-threatening (or even Eric-threatening, for that matter). Not only did Eric get the job done, but his ego took a couple of hits as well. It was also great to see the Avengers in a non-commercial cameo, skeptically observing their most untried member. Thor's appearance at the story's conclusion was also a pleasant additive to a nice story. And then there was issue #11 . . .

Dealing with a social issue is fine, and when it can be done in a mature, unpreachy manner, all the better. Creating a natural environment for the story (by involving Kevin and his schoolmates) was simply good writing. Any hero could march into a public school and try to project a positive image for the kids to emulate. In fact, I think the Human Torch did it once or twice, and it wouldn't suprise me if Cap made an appearance or two during his proud history. Thunderstrike's involvement, however, was logical, somewhat selfish, but very natural a motivation.

Eric's character was also nicely serviced by his failure to resolve the issue easily. The problem of guns in public schools is bigger than any one person, even if he/she possesses the power of an Asgardian god. Having Eric learn this was very much in the spirit of his character. In fact, that overall lack of resolution was an effective means for ending the story. We didn't even find out what happened to Joey, Kevin's friend! Well done!

Sparky Trevor
57 Chapel St.
Barrington, RI 02806

Tom and Ron put a great deal of thought and effort into writing this story, Sparky, and letters like yours always serve to remind them why. Thanks for writing in.

Dear Ralph and Matt,

Love this book, even if it comes out every three years or so. As for the letters page, how 'bout calling it "Eric's Errors"?

Bill Deekman
89 Morris Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Oooohh, cold.

Dear Thunderthrowers,

Thanks for putting Eric back in the Avengers. I really enjoy getting to see him in action twice a month. I have a couple questions I hope you'll be able to answer.

1) Is Mephisto ever going to show up again? I kind of figure he might, just to get back at Thor.

2) Any chance of a THUNDERSTRIKE/AVENGERS crossover? Maybe Eric could take charge of a mission, for once.

3) How come Bloodaxe didn't go after Sangré in issue #11?

4) Who is Bloodaxe? I know you won't answer this one, but hey, I can dream.

Thanks for your time.

Stacy Mendez
(Address withheld by request)

Thanks for writing, Stacy. Your answers in concise order:

1) Why get revenge on a true god like Thor, when it's so much easier to get revenge on a mere mortal (hint, hint)?

2) Why, yes, there is. Stay tuned for 1995--it's going to be a whole lot bigger than just another mission.

3) Bloodaxe is very fond of women who dress in red and purple and shoot big guns--go figure.

4) Bwa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!!

NEXT ISSUE:
World peace! Poverty is eliminated! Everyone wins! Yeah, right.

RALPH MACCHIO: WASTE — MATT IDELSON: ASSISTANT WASTE
c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL US SO!